



## The who's who of ballet arrives

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## Dine out with a winter view

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# Fantasyland now reality



CFP Photo

After a 10-year wait, the Magic Kingdom is coming. Shanghai Disneyland, now approved by the central government, will have the largest area and lowest ticket price of any of the media giant's theme parks.

Aside from new jobs for Pudong, the theme park means competition for the Disney attractions in Japan and Hong Kong. But that will not be a problem: the mainland's market always has room for another Mickey Mouse theme park. Continue reading on Page 2.

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# Shanghai Disney is go, has city learnt from HK?

By Zhao Hongyi

After nearly a decade of debate, Shanghai Disneyland has been greenlighted by the central government, according to a Wednesday press release by the Shanghai Municipal Government.

Total investment in the project is around 24.48 billion yuan, of which Walt Disney will hold 43 percent and a Shanghai-based investment company owned by the Shanghai Municipal Government will hold the rest.

The new Shanghai Disneyland will be in the city's Pudong district. Its size is reported to be 4 square kilometers, larger than any other Disney theme park. The site is expected to break ground soon and begin operating in 2014. The entrance fee has been set at 300 yuan, the lowest in the world.

Pudong and Shanghaiese real estate agencies are enthusiastic about the future of the area, and property values are rising with the promise of more jobs.

Shanghai and Walt Disney signed a framework agreement for the project earlier this year.

But many worry about the impact a Shanghai Disney could have on Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Disneyland went into operation in 2005, but it has not been as profitable as expected. In July, Hong Kong Disneyland said it agreed with Walt Disney to inject HK \$6.4 billion (5.6 billion yuan) to build three new rides, including Toy Story Land and Grizzly Trail.

Observers worry the new Shanghai Disneyland will be competing against those in Hong Kong and Japan.

"Visitors from Guangdong and southern China will still find Hong Kong more convenient while Shanghai will attract visitors from northern and east-



Pudong, Shanghai residents are encouraged by the news and looking forward to new jobs and increased property value.

Xinhua Photo

ern China," said Paul Tang, chief economist of Bank of East Asia, Reuters reported.

In Hong Kong, Warren Tong, deputy chairman of the Travel Industry, said Shanghai Disneyland will put pressure on Hong Kong Disneyland to improve. He also said the Chinese market is big enough for two Disneylands.

"The key problem for the Hong Kong Disneyland is that the government only profits from admission sales and not from the other Disney products ... related hotels and restaurants," said Ray So, professor of finance from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"It's a lesson Shanghai should learn from," he said.

Walt Disney has the right to collect franchise fee from those admissions profits.

So did not blame the HK government for the bum deal: the park project was signed in 1998 when the island was desperate for a project to boost consumption and confidence.

"Shanghai needs to pay attention to the details and take this in the right direction," he said.

Local media has been more concerned about the investment decisions, saying the process has not been transparent.

The *Beijing News* reported that Shanghai is investing fiscal

funds, the use of which is required to be transparent and open to group review.

It also said the 80-year-old theme park brand can hardly be as successful as it once was, especially after parks in Europe and Hong Kong proved to be such disappointments.

Many believe the government's approval of the project is a gift to US President Barack Obama, who will visit Shanghai and Beijing from November 15 to 18.

"We should keep a close eye on this project to see whether it can be profitable and grow in the long term," the *Beijing News* said.

## Expo seeks creative culture growth amid ongoing recession

The fourth annual China Beijing International and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE), a landmark event since the government approved its National Plan to Develop Cultural Industry, will be held November 25 to 29.

The theme of this year's expo is "inspiring cultural creativity and promoting sustainable development."

"The event comes as China's cultural and creative industries enter a golden chance for development against a background of financial crisis," Chu Xiangyin, vice director of the expo's organizing committee, said.

Chu said this year's ICCIE will bring more social and for-

eign capital into the cultural industries and promote home-grown cultural and creative businesses, products and services on the international market.

There will be nearly 100 activities during the five-day expo, including six comprehensive activities, exhibitions, forums and conferences, trade promotions, cultural performances and creative activities.

The main venue for the expo will be the China International Exhibition Center, with nine sub-venues throughout the city. The main center has nine halls for film and television; heritage and museum derivatives; cultural tourism goods; sports industry;

animated cartoons and games; creative designs; galleries and works of art; and creative gifts.

"Promoting these projects is the purpose of this expo. It gives all the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities a chance to put forward their key industrial projects, symbols of their city's image, to seek cooperation," Chu said.

This year's eight forums will focus on topics like reducing the access threshold, getting nonpublic capital into the cultural and creative industries, and how smart investments can help listed cultural companies grow competitive.

Overseas exhibitions are

another highlight, Chu said. More than 10 countries, including Chile, Germany, Italy and Vietnam, will set up booths.

The UK is hosting Creativity Day for the first time, and a delegation from Japan is expected to attend the ICCIE for the first time.

The exhibition of Legacy of the Capital's Charm: Old Beijing in Western Eyes, will be held at the same time at the China Millennium Monument, a sub-venue. It includes 150 Old Beijing engravings drawn by Westerners a century ago, along with architectural models, old books and old photos that offer a new look at the historic city.

(By Han Manman)

## Nobel laureates gather to discuss economy

By Huang Daohen

Some of the finest minds are en route to Beijing for next week's Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum 2009, the event's organizer said Wednesday.

From November 10 to 12, five Nobel laureates and five world-renowned economists will gather at the forum to discuss current economic development on the theme Financial Reconstruction and Economic Recovery.

Unlike previous sessions, this year's invited laureates are all economics awardees. Attendees include Robert Mundell (1999), Edmund Phelps (2006), Vernon Smith (2002), Daniel L. McFadden (2002) and James Mirrlees (1996).

Financial crisis, economic downturn and recovery have become major concerns the past year. "This is particularly inspiring because five Nobel laureates, whose work includes many specialties, are gathering to discuss the recovery of the world economy," said Lu Mai, secretary-general of the China Development Research Foundation.

Economic issues such as over-investment, macro-economic control and the yuan exchange rate have been at the center of global attention, Lu said. "They are sure to be the subject of lively debate during the forum."

Some laureates know the Chinese economy intimately, Lu said. Mundell, for example, published his "Inflation and Growth in China" in 1996.

"He is very friendly to China and is confident about our economy," Lu said. "Whenever someone is railing against our currency policy and calling for the yuan to appreciate, Mundell is always the first to support keeping it stable."

Mirrlees has been an adviser to the Chinese Government, and is a distinguished professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and an honorary professor at Peking University.

Ten lectures during the two-day forum will be open to the public with a goal to attract college students. "However, these lecture are not to teach people how to make money in the stock market. Instead, we hope an interactive session with the laureates will help people to learn more about finance," Lu said.

The Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum, first held in 2005, is sponsored by the Developmental Research Center of the State Council and the municipal government.



# Beijing Jeep is more than meets the eye

By Jin Zhu

Many Transformers fans show their enthusiasm by collecting models: Sun Peng shows his by making them.

Since November 1, the 26-year-old's latest 7.8-meter-high, 5-ton metal monster has been on display at 751 D-Park Plaza.

Unlike his past Transformers, which were made of lighter scrap materials like plastic and foam, his latest creation uses leftover parts of Beijing Jeeps.

"It was the first time I tried to make such a large and complicated model," Sun said.

Sun has been making Transformer models since 2007, and all his works are based on the film and cartoon franchises. "This time I wanted to take a leap and design my own," he said.

He said he selected a Beijing Jeep, because the car would create a Chinese style Transformer and be an image with which the public is more familiar: especially Beijingers.

Working without any blueprints, Sun finished his Transformer after a month and a half. "I almost spent 12 hours per day in the factory and worked together with two helpers. New sparks of imagination came out during each session, and they were important to our end result," he said.

Although the Transformer is complete, Sun is now working on dreaming up its background. "I plan to collect more metal waste and scrap to make a junkyard. If you place the Transformer in juxtaposition to that, he will look like a hero standing on the ruins of a war," Sun said.

His art is maturing gradually. "At the beginning, creating was my only concern. But now am more deliberate about my ideas and what to do with my finished pieces," he said.

"Even before I started on the latest, I had already sighted a location by the 751 factory in 798 Art District where he would look good. It fit in well with the nearby heavy machinery," he said.

Sun said he gets the money for each new project by exhibiting his last models in offices, malls and bars. Although he has not profited



Since November 1, the 26-year-old's latest 7.8-meter-high, 5 tons metal monster has been on display at 751 D-Park Plaza.

Photo provided by Chang Lei

from the displays, he is hopeful for a future turnaround.

"I get a lot of suggestions and advice on the Internet whenever I

get stuck, and I think that means that more people are thinking about these kinds of designs," Sun said, "Maybe some time in the

future we can form an association with fancy get-togethers for Transformers builders. At least that's my hope."

## Two men detained for counterfeit dollars

By Zhao Hongyi

Abraham and Mohammod (pseudonym), two young travelers, were detained October 29 for circulating fake US dollar notes in the city.

On October 29, the two visited Panjiayuan Antique Market and found a porcelain vendor on the second floor.

After bargaining with the vendor, the two told him, in English, that they had just arrived in Beijing and had not yet exchanged their money. The vendor agreed to accept their foreign currency.

The two paid \$200 and were paid in yuan notes. The two asked the vendor to help them exchange some dollars into yuan notes.

The vendor agreed, accepted their \$300 notes and gave them the equivalent in yuan. The two took the money and left.

The vendor checked the notes and discovered all of them were fake. He ran downstairs and grabbed the men while they were waiting for a taxi.

At the police station, the men confessed they arrived in China six months ago and were living in a hotel near the Beijing West Railway Station. The police found nearly \$10,000 in fake notes at their hotel.

The two told police that they bought the fake notes after a business venture failed in Guangdong. They came to Beijing three days ago to spend the fake dollars in a "proper way" to "recover the losses."

The two were jailed November 2 pending trial and sentencing, Lin Song, an officer at the Beijing Immigration Bureau, said.

Police reminded native business owners not to accept or facilitate the exchange of foreign currencies to prevent these kinds of crimes.

"Be careful when you see someone pass you an unfamiliar note," Lin said.

## Search for buried Russians stops

By Han Manman

Rescuers suspended their search Wednesday for two Russian tourists buried by an avalanche in Sichuan last week. Provincial officials said there was little chance the missing men have survived the bad weather.

The tourists, Igor Sherstnev and Anfisa Krasheninina, were part of a group of four that was on Siguniang Mountain for a climbing, camping and photography trip last week.

The group was buried in an avalanche last Wednesday. On Saturday, local police received a phone call from Sergey Iyagin and Andrey

Mikhailchenko, their companions, who said their companions had remained buried since Wednesday.

Authorities immediately dispatched a rescue team, but it was impossible for the team to advance due to constant avalanches and ice erosion, said Huang Jizhou, an official with the management bureau of Siguniang Mountain in Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture.

The rescuers gave up their search Wednesday after the Russian survivors requested rescuers suspend their search to avoid another accident.

"The missing two had almost

no hope of survival," Huang said.

A Russian team will continue the search for bodies next January when the snow freezes and avalanches are less likely, he said.

Lin Li, secretary-general of Sichuan Mountaineers Club, said rescuers could not track their route or location because the climbers did not show their route map or obtain a climbing permit from the General Sports Administration before the trip. "For their own safety, this is why it's mandatory for any climber to obtain a license from the General Sport Administration before setting off into the mountains," Lin said.



The survivors tell their story.

Photo provided by ab.newssc.org

Statistics from the Sichuan Mountaineers Club showed that 80 foreigners climbed the Siguniang Mountain without registration between July and August.

"A lot of foreign climbers tend

to skip the registration process, which is easy and only costs a few US dollars," Lin said. Climbers are also asked to follow known routes or at least to avoid routes that will isolate them from other climbers.



# Refugees a silent group

By Han Manman

You do not hear much about "refugees" in China. Only the recent flood of Burmese entering China due to escape the Myanmar military brought their problems to light.

Few realize that China has long been home to a large but silent group of refugees. These stateless people have been settled for many years: some enjoy a good life while other struggle.

Dealing with the refugee problem is not an easy task given the country's comparative lack of experience in refugee regulations. The Myanmar refugees revived the old question: is China ready and able to relieve future international humanitarian crises?



Myanmar refugees are well settled in the temporary camp. CFP Photo



Media praised the government's response to the Burmese refugee crisis as efficient.

Photo provided by CRI Online

## Refugees well settled

The last time a flood of refugees was came in 1979, during the Sino-Vietnamese War, when nearly 300,000 Vietnamese came into the country.

At that time, Chen Youliang was one of them. Born in Vietnam, Chen has spent the last 30 years of his life in China, where he feels at home.

In 1979, Chen fled from a conflict between the two neighbors. Luckily, the Chinese government allowed him and other refugees to settle even though the country was quite poor at the time.

Chen and his family were settled on the state-run Liangqi Farm in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which borders Vietnam.

Thirty years later, Chen is the chairman of the farm's Refugee Association and enjoys a good life. Many of the refugees there have thrived on the sugarcane farm.

"The average income here is higher than in Nanning (the capital of Guangxi)," he said proudly.

His 15-year-old daughter firmly believes the family is Chinese. All she knows of Vietnam is what she heard from her grandparents.

## World model

The country also received thousands of refugees from Laos and Cambodia in the early 1980s. The government gave them the same treatment as the Vietnamese refugees, who are known collectively as the Indo-Chinese Refugees.

"China's way of settling the Indo-Chinese Refugees is one of the most successful integration examples in the world," said Song Jing, information officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The organization opened an office in Beijing in February 1980 to respond to the influx of Vietnamese refugees following the Sino-Vietnamese War.

Song said there are only three solutions to the refugee problem: voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

Song said China's success is not measured by the number of Indo-Chinese

refugees it helped, but by how it helped them integrate.

**"While many countries settle refugees into camps, China settled them with the local population to start a new life. That is a model the whole world should learn from."**

Refugees in China have most of the same privileges as Chinese nationals – identification and passport papers – just no citizenship.

## A silent group

Indo-Chinese refugees are by far the largest group, but they are not China's only refugees. There are also many refugees from other border countries. But many of these refugees do not enjoy the same treatment.

The borders have been relatively quiet since the Vietnamese War, but that has not kept refugees from flooding in from several underdeveloped, politically unstable and ethnically complicated neighbors. Some are in the throes of civil war, like Pakistan, and others are unstable democracies, like Thailand.

Some flee to China to escape religious persecution.

Song said one 100-strong group of refugees lives spread across cities like Beijing and Guangzhou. Refugees living outside camp settlements are called "urban refugees."

While they no longer fear for their lives, their refugee status has hardly made it easier to find a good life in China.

"There are no laws related to refugees in China, and these urban refugees have no legal status, no access to work, no access to education and no access to health care," Song said.

## Lack of laws

"The great disparity in treatment exists because there is no national law on what to do with refugees," said Liang Shuying, vice chairman of the Beijing International Law Association, adding that the government could only solve the problems case by case.

Liang is one of the few scholars involved

refugee legal research.

In 1982, shortly after the Vietnamese refugees arrived, China signed two international agreements: the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the supplemental 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees. The country officially promised to provide refugees with political asylum and protection.

Liang said the laws defined a refugee as a person who "owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is unable or unwilling to return."

"China strictly follows those conventions when it receives refugees," Liang said.

**"But it still has not passed any laws on dealing with these people. As a result, local authorities can only handle each refugee's situation on a case-by-case basis."**

According to the national Emergency Plan, a document looked to for guidance in refugee cases, an incident that involves more than 500 international refugees seeking shelter is to be given priority and handled directly by the State Council.

Normally, when individual refugees come to a country and wants to apply for refugee status, they must submit an application to the country's relevant government department. When the government recognizes their refugee status, it then must afford them the same treatment as common expats.

In the absence of national refugee laws, however, the government is not responsible for determining refugee status. Asylum-seekers must apply directly to the UNHCR in China.

Song said the UNHCR provides refugees with accommodations, medical assistance and education or vocational training. "However, UNHCR-approved refugees do not receive the same treatment as government



Many past refugees settled with the local population. Photo by Mai Quan



Indo-Chinese Refugees enjoy good life.

Photo by Yu Decheng

approved refugees," Song said.

## More mature

But new refugee legislation is underway. Song disclosed that, as far as she knows, the draft version has already reached the State Council for approval.

"We hope the upcoming national refugee legislation will resolve these asylum issues and give refugees real legal status," Song said.

Song said the government has learned a lot over the last 30 years about how to handle such emergencies, including lessons from the Myanmar refugee influx.

"According to media reports, the government's response to Burmese refugees was efficient: it provided food, shelter and medical care within a short time," she said.

The future may bring even more refugees, and when it does, hopefully Chinese law will be better able to respond to these incidents of international humanitarian crisis.



# 'Rocket King' Qian Xuesen dies at 98

Reminder of what is lacking in society and education

The death of prominent rocket scientist Qian Xuesen last Saturday drew attention to what in the country's society and education lacks today. Can China foster another Qian under current conditions?



*I plan to do my best to help the Chinese people build up the nation to where they can live with dignity and happiness.*

— Qian Xuesen

Qian Xuesen, widely considered the father of the country's nuclear missile and space program, has died at the age of 98.

Qian was born in Hangzhou and went to the US in 1935 to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and then the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

He returned to China in 1955, and joined the Communist Party in 1958.

Qian was put in charge of developing the country's first missiles. He also oversaw the development of China's first atom bomb, which was detonated in 1964.

"His return brought China the hope of developing space science and its own missiles," said a domestic media report last year.

China put its first man into space in 2003.



Local residents visit Qian Xuesen's home to mourn the death of the leading space scientist.

CFP Photo

## Sidelights Mourning across the country

News of Qian's death on October 31 made newspaper headlines and was a constant topic on web sites in the past week.

*Beijing News* Sunday published an editorial urging citizens to learn from his devotion to science and quest for truth.

Online news reports on his death were followed by thousands

of messages from netizens.

"Qian has made great contributions to China and he should long be remembered by all Chinese people," said a netizen named "Li Yaoming."

"Qian worked hard throughout his life. While mourning his loss, our younger generation should speed up efforts and make

contributions to the country," said another netizen "1931."

At Shanghai Jiaotong University, where Qian studied from 1929 to 1934, more than 2,000 students held a memorial service on campus Saturday night.

Earlier that day, the university published a message of condolence to Qian's family on its

web site on behalf of all its students and teachers.

The university's publishing house is preparing to publish a pictorial on Qian and a collection of his writings based on more than 800 pages of documents retrieved from the US National Archives.

(Agencies)

## Opinion Will we have another Qian?

A sense of mission and responsibility for the nation and humanity must sound cliché to some Chinese people these days as materialism and hedonism prevail among sectors of our society.

The death of prominent rocket scientist Qian Xuesen is a solemn reminder of what is lacking in our country today.

Qian, along with a large group of scientists and intellectuals, returned to New China in the 1950s to help with the country's reconstruction, leaving behind abundant material comforts abroad.

Qian's motto was simple: Do something for the people.

In comparison, many people today, including young scientists and intellectuals, never seem to think about their responsibility to the nation and the human race. Those who think like Qian seem sadly out of date.

For many people, personal gains come first and foremost in choosing a career — and even a major in college.

While it is understandable that several political campaigns from the 1950s to the 1970s did exploit

in some ways people's passion for the country and their fellowmen, this still cannot justify the indifference seen today.

Unlike the 1950s, 60s and 70s, the worship of material possessions today has permeated almost every sector of society. And some say the belief in anything spiritual is on the verge of extinction.

That said, we should still give credit for the recent rise of volunteerism among the public, as demonstrated both during the Beijing Olympics and after the Sichuan earthquake just over a year ago.

However, that is just the beginning of a long and arduous journey to reviving spiritual beliefs.

The death of the highly respected scientist has plunged many Chinese people into deep sorrow.

The best way to remember Qian is to revive in people's heart his sense of mission and responsibility for the nation and the world.

Cultivating such dedication should become part of our school curriculum and society's education as a whole.

— Chen Weihua, commentator with China Daily



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# Bustle in Canton

## Largest trade fair shows export recovery

By Huang Daohen

Is the hard-hit export sector in southern coastal cities under recovery? Some boast while others bite their nails. But a visit to the 106th China Import and Export Fair, better known as the Canton Fair, explains all.



Prospective buyers flock to the Canton Fair, the world's largest trade show.

CFP Photos

### The noise is back

"It was bustling with noise again," said Wang Qingguo, a local resident living near the Pazhou expo hall where the Canton fair was held. "Every day, there were so many people coming and going."

But Wang was not complaining. In April when the fair's spring session was held amid the global economic downturn, the scene was quiet and cheerless as Western orders for China-made goods shriveled.

Wang, 65, a retired government official, said he was used to hearing the noise since 2004, when the government first started using the massive exhibition hall in Pazhou, a village in Guangzhou's Zhuhai district.

Since then, watching the trade fair – the import-export barometer – was one of Wang's post-retirement hobbies. "I am confident about the recovery, as there were more foreigners who showed up and more attended the Canton Fair in general," he said.

He was right.

The mood at this Canton Fair was far more upbeat than in the spring session. According to the organizers, export orders rose 16.2 percent over spring totaling 208 billion yuan.

Export value of mechanical and electrical products rose 20.7 percent from the previous session to 92.79 billion yuan, accounting for 44.6 percent of the total. Exports of textiles and garments climbed 5.9 percent to 23.35 billion yuan, while that of home appliances increased 11.3 percent to 36.25 billion yuan.

"The better-than-expected results of this session are a reflection of the government's stimulus measures and show signs of

recovery," Wang Zhiping, secretary-general of the Canton Fair, said at the fair's closing ceremony Wednesday.

### Emerging markets a buffer

Though prospects seem optimistic for this year, organizers say things are changing. Potential markets like the Middle East and South America have become a buffer for Chinese exports, while US and European consumers tighten their purses.

Lebanese businessman George Hanna was among the big fans of the Canton fair.

Hanna said he could not remember how many times he had made the 14-hour flight to visit the fair.

Every year, he spends two or three months and millions of dollars in Guangdong to purchase everything from machinery to textiles, which he then sells in Lebanon.

"At least 2,000 Lebanese buyers came to the 106th Canton Fair," he said. He planed to hunt for more goods in Yiwu city, the nation's biggest small commodities market.

Because of the financial crisis, orders from the EU shrank during the first six months, but business from the oil-dependent Gulf nations rose, organizers said.

"Emerging markets had huge potential as they were desperately in need of materials to expand infrastructure," Wang Zhiping said.

Nearly 40,000 of the total 87,700 foreign buyers attended the first phase of the fair came from emerging markets, according to data released by the organizers.

"But to explore emerging markets does not mean we are



Overseas buyers come seeking cheaper commodities.

pulling away from developed ones," Wang said. "The US and European markets are so big that they deserve our consistent effort, especially once the economy heats up."

### Shifting strategy

Exporters who face shrinking foreign orders have shifted their strategies to the domestic market.

Linda Mao, manager of the Zhejiang based Feiyue Textile Company, said her company is planning to divert some of its business from abroad to the domestic market.

The company's sales in the US, 25 percent of its total exports, dropped 25 percent this

year, Mao said.

Mao said she hoped local sales could compensate for the decreasing orders from overseas.

But the readjustment can be difficult. Mao said export companies like hers lack sales channels in the domestic market. "These are two different kinds of markets, and it takes a lot of work to be familiar with the ways business is done with local buyers," she said.

Besides, some of their export goods are too expensive for Chinese buyers. "The price systems are different and it had been very difficult to sell the products to domestic buyers as they lacked a price advantage," Mao said.

### Analyst Exports far from recovery

The recent trade increase in coastal cities like Guangzhou may show that the dwindling export market has hit bottom, but analysts remained guarded about a full recovery in the short term.

"The current order rise may be the combined result of seasonal factors, such as Christmas demand," Zhao Xiao, economics professor with the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

As usual, the upcoming Christmas season in the West has driven up demand for gift products and brought a revival to relative industries, but a complete export revival depends on real growth in the world economy, Zhao said.

According to a study by Zhao, many small- and medium-sized manufacturers have been struggling at the bottom or operating below cost since the recession.

"Besides, despite the good momentum, the recovery for the US and Europe is not much motivated, and external demand is still dismal. There are many uncertainties and it will take a long time for them to fully recover," he said.

Last month's statistics from the General Administration of Customs showed that trade from January to August totaled 9.1 trillion yuan, down 22.4 percent compared with the same period last year.

There are also protectionism obstacles. Since the global recession, China has become a major target of trade protectionism, Zhao said.

In September, US President Barack Obama decided to impose a tariff on Chinese tires. Likewise, in August, the EU launched anti-dumping investigation into imported aluminum products, which brought an estimated 2.7 billion yuan of losses to 60 Chinese exporters.

Zhao suggests the government must provide sustainable and stable support to exporters.



# The lost capital of fame

## Uphill battle to protect homes of historical figures

### Rare courtyard with historical, family ties

"For me and my family, this represents our roots. In a sense, it is also the city's roots," Wang says, standing beside his home.

Wang has lived here since he was born. His grandfather bought the courtyard in 1935, during the Republic of China period.

The place has three yards and 24 rooms – all occupied by relatives. Its ancient architecture is in fine condition and no additions were made to the original buildings. "More and more siheyuan are being demolished. It's rare to see such a complete one," Wang says.

Among relatives who lived there was his uncle, Shi Shuqing, an appraiser of cultural relics. Shi owned a study which was well-known among local experts in cultural relics. The room was called Zhuying, or Bamboo Shadow, because it was located behind a small growth of bamboos. Wang and his wife now live there.

The courtyard is also part of the former residence of Li Hongzhang, a renowned military general during the late Qing Dynasty. "It's part of Li's former residence, and the only portion left since all the others have been destroyed," Wang says.

His Uncle Shi talked about this in one book. Xie Chensheng, 87, honorary president of the Chinese Society for the Protection of Cultural Relics, has confirmed the information. He supports Wang's reasons for wanting to preserve the courtyard.

### Caught in a demolition battle

The 800-year-old Dongtangzi Hutong, where Wang's courtyard is located, is one of Beijing's oldest. But most of the houses there have been renovated to look modern.

The entrance to Wang's home retains its old, small gate. A 20-story building stands to the right; to the left are ruins of another courtyard.

Wang's family first received demolition notice in 2004. The permit was issued by the Dongcheng District Housing Administration. The family explored every avenue to keep their home, finally suing the real estate developer. The case – filed by Wang's cousin Shi Yonghe in 2005 – attracted media attention.

Though they lost the case, the demolition crew stayed away. "They removed the notice for demolition posted on our house, which was my goal," Shi says.

Early this year, they again received a demolition notice, including the real estate developer's appraisal of 8,800 yuan per square meter for the property. "We could not accept that, even with such a bid, which seems like robbery," Shi says. The courtyard measures 430 square meters and would be valued at 3.7 million yuan under those terms.

In August, they applied to

By Zhang Dongya

At 55 Dongtangzi Hutong, in Dongcheng District, is an old *siheyuan*: a courtyard now fenced in by high-rises.

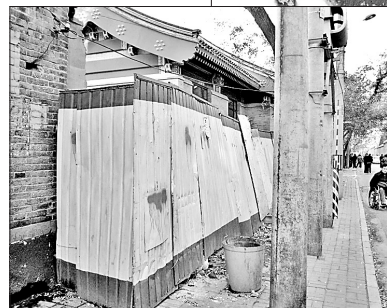
Thirty-seven-year-old Wang Chun, one of the courtyard's residents, has fought against the demolition of his home for the last five years, claiming that as an intact courtyard, it should be preserved for its cultural value. He has also bannered its historical significance: it used to be the residence of Li Hongzhang, a distinguished military figure during the late Qing Dynasty.

Today, the Beijing Dongcheng District People's Court will rule on whether to tear down or preserve the courtyard.

As new buildings continue to mushroom around the city, more courtyards are in danger of demolition, including the former residences of historical figures and local celebrities. Since there is no law that protects such sites, they now stand on the brink.



This courtyard on 55 Dongtangzi Hutong retains its original architecture and is one of the few that remains intact.



As new buildings mushroom around Beijing, locals worry whether old courtyard residences can survive.

Photos by Yanni

the Dongcheng District Culture Committee for inclusion on its list of "cultural relics to be protected." The application is still under consideration.

### Lack of identity and maintenance

"In the past 50 years, 80 percent of the siheyuan have disappeared. The speed is startling," Zhang Wei, an activist fighting for the protection of old Beijing structures, says. Unknown courtyards quickly and quietly vanish; those that used to house celebrities cannot put up much of a bigger fight.

In July, the former residence of Liang Sicheng – the "father of modern Chinese architecture" – on 24 Beizongbu Hutong was partly torn down. A month later, one of the former residences of Lu Xun – considered the "great-

est writer in 20th century Chinese literature" – located at 11 Badaowan Hutong received a demolition notice.

Though these courtyards were once home to historically significant people, they lost their identities with the passing of their masters.

Experience shows it is a difficult process to authenticate "famous residences." Beijing was the imperial capital for six dynasties, and consequentially was home to many famous individuals.

Furthermore, since many of them moved several times, plotting their homes makes for a complicated map. Li Dazhao, co-founder of the Communist Party of China, had more than seven residences, while Lu Xun moved at least five times.

Wang Yuwei, director of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau, says that whether a residence should be preserved or not depends on both its cultural and architectural values. Facts need to be established and oral history is not enough, he says.

The passage of time and lack of money are also culprits. The architect Liang's old residence was said to have wasted away into nothing more than a cluttered yard, thus removing its cultural significance.

The courtyard's demolition was temporarily halted by the State Cultural Relics Bureau, but its future remains uncertain. Four of Lu Xun's former residences have been authenticated, but Badaowan Hutong's fate is still under discussion.

The cultural and architectural values of Wang Chun's courtyard is still being studied.

### Calls for regulations and assessment

"There is no regulation to protect the former residences of celebrities, so they are examined and appraised as old architecture," says Luo Zhewen, 85, an expert in ancient architecture and one of the students of Liang Sicheng.

The main existing laws dealing with old architecture are the Beijing Overall Urban Planning and the Plans for the Protection of Famous Historical Cultural Metropolis of Beijing.

Moreover, real estate developers' encroachment infuriates the courtyards' owners.

Wang says that based on current market prices, their land and home should fetch more than 360,000 yuan per square meter – much higher than the developer's offer of 8,800 yuan. "Even if one day we had to give up the house, it should be a fair trade instead of such an unequal deal," he says.

Wang says that if he loses the lawsuit today and had to move out of the house, he would still appeal the decision.

"The old city of Beijing located inside Second Ring Road should be preserved, especially siheyuan, the typical feature of the old city," Wang says.



# French-owned shop collaborates with rural women's coop

By Wang Yu

In Tang' Roulou, a small children's traditional clothing shop in central Beijing, a German customer was speaking with his wife back in Germany via webcam. The couple were discussing an ideal Chinese dress for their baby.

Behind the counter was Amelie Peraud, the French shop owner who designed all the products. When she opened Tang' Roulou in November 2004, she never thought that five years down the road, it would make a mark through its work with the rural poor.

Peraud's story in China began in 2001 when she came here for the first time and stayed for two months. Scenes of old people's leisurely life in Beijing's hutong left a deep impression on her, and she started taking Chinese lessons in France. After a few months, she returned to Beijing and moved into a courtyard.

Like many foreigners in the country, she makes a living through what she knows best: French language. She teaches at the French School, Beijing and runs Tang' Roulou during her off hours.

"Soon after I moved here, a friend of mine in France got pregnant and I looked around for a present for her. I found these clothes and tried to make more myself," Peraud said. But learn-

ing the needlework was not easy; thankfully, other teachers introduced her to some local tailors.

With the aid of her education in design and manufacturing, she decided to open Tang' Roulou – a French homonym for tanghulu, the traditional Chinese snack of sugar-coated haws on a stick.

"The shop used to be next door – a very small room – until I moved to the present place in 2008. I didn't do much advertisement in the past. But it became known to many people in the expat community due to friends' word of mouth," Peraud said.

The present shop faces Zhong-gulou Square. Through its big windows – which Peraud's business partner Pierre-Yves Babin calls a "movie screen" – Peraud watches everyday Beijing life pass by.

Beside the children's clothes sits a collection of book covers, made with dotted cloth and embroidered with the phrase "haohao xuexi": "study hard." They are the product of Peraud's collaboration with Femmes du Ningxia, a French NGO that works with women in impoverished Chinese communities.

All the embroidery is done by members of Baihua, a women's cooperative in Ningxia Province established with the help of Femmes du Ningxia in 2007. Half of the products sales are given to Baihua, which uses the funds to pay workers' salaries, buy new materials, train new



Peraud and Babin spent last Christmas in Ningxia to train the members of Baihua women's cooperative.

Photo by Song Nannan

people and pay for the education of members' children.

Ningxia women are famed for their embroidery skill; they make charms and decorative objects for the home and for big celebrations, mainly wedding feasts. The province, however, lags far behind the prosperity of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. In fact, it is one of country's poorest regions, regularly stricken by drought and isolated

from bustling markets.

When Peraud heard of the organization, she planned to apply for a job there until she realized their biggest problem: "The women are skilled but have no clients. So I thought my shop could help keep them in business."

Their cooperation began last year, and the first products – sleeping bags for babies – arrived at Tang' Roulou in May. Then the

book covers came. Local sewers assembled the covers, incorporating embroidery from Baihua.

"People think these things are easy to make, especially the book covers. But it's not easy to maintain the quality we have achieved," Peraud said. Some of Baihua's members are illiterate, so it's a challenge for them to embroider the phrase "haohao xuexi"; the women are used to working with plain cloth not the dotted embroidery fabric; and most workers would rather work at home than in the office, which makes maintaining quality control a big headache.

To solve these problems, Peraud and Babin last year traveled six times to Ningxia, to help train members of the cooperative. "Now the women are able to organize production without us," Peraud said proudly.

Because of the lack of an interpreter, Peraud had to make an effort to improve her Chinese-speaking skills in order to communicate with the women. "Haohao xuexi" is as much a reminder to her and to Baihua's members of the need to study hard.

"That means a lot both to me as a Chinese learner and to them. Some are still leaning to read. Both the women and the children are willing to learn and so are we," Peraud said.

The book covers are popular, but only 40 are produced each production cycle. Once production is up to speed, Peraud and Babin plan to consign the merchandise to other shops to expand Baihua's market reach.

"I have many ideas, but I also have to be patient about moving forward. After all, we want our collaboration with the cooperative to be sustainable and good for everyone," Peraud said.



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# Singer frowns on title 'sad prince from Germany'

By Wang Yu

How does it feel to be more popular in a country thousands of miles away than in your native land? Maximilian Hecker, a 32-year-old German singer and song writer, should know the answer.

Last Friday, Hecker performed for an enthusiastic crowd at the concert hall of the National Library of China as part of his fifth China tour. But unlike his past shows, the singer known for his melancholy songs appeared without his band: it was only him and a grand piano on stage.

"That was a new concept I started in recent shows, which evokes in the audience a different feeling for my music. I actually don't feel nervous when performing alone; on the other hand, it helps me to concentrate," said Hecker, whose first trip to Beijing was in 2004.

After performing as a drummer in a number of small German bands, his demo tapes attracted the attention of Kitty-Yo Records, which released his debut album *Infinite Love Songs* in 2001. He has since done numerous European tours and released six LP albums, his latest being *One Day*, which was released last year.

Although his songs are accompanied by the piano and lack the distortion guitar sounds, they share the melancholy tone of typ-

ical British rock tunes such as "Fake Plastic Trees" by Radiohead – one of Hecker's favorite bands. The German artist, however, said he'd rather stay in the indie-pop category than jump into rock.

With the help of his good looks, he has garnered a following in China. His collaboration with Chinese artists such as Yang Naiwen and Sodagreen, a pop band from Taiwan, helped build his fan base. Another China tour next year is in the drawing board.

The local media has dubbed him "the sad prince from Germany" – a reference to his face and his brand of music – a title that does not make him very happy.

"I'm not a prince and neither am I a depressed or sad or melancholic person. People built my image from my music, which is actually about bliss. For me, bliss means being able to feel. It means being able to have intense, deep emotions, no matter if they are happy or sad," he said.

Though his songs remain a niche, he has received more recognition here and in other Asian countries than in Europe. The reason, Hecker said, is that it is easier for Asians to understand the feelings expressed in his music.

"I've found it interesting that when I perform in Europe, the audiences don't believe you. They may say, 'He's pretending to be singing like that.' But here, I can

feel the people really know what I'm singing about and what I'm trying to express. I guess here, showing your emotion in creating art is an important part of the cul-

ture," Hecker said. But he refuses to give up on his part of the world.

"I've done several tours in Europe. We didn't do so well the last time but ... we are still trying,"

Hecker said of his band.

He writes a song every two months, which Hecker does not consider work: it is his way of telling his version of life.



German singer Maximilian Hecker has made fans in China with his good looks and the sensitive melodies.

Photo provided by Pocket Records.

# CHINA SHOW



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# Austrian contemporary artists seek bigger presence

By Venus Lee

Fifteen Austrian artists established the Austro-Sino Art Program (ASAP) as the first step to drawing their government's attention to the importance of cultural communication with China, as well as to promote Austrian visual art.

Several of the artists spent Tuesday at Anniart Gallery in 798 Art District making last-minute floor arrangements to their group exhibition tomorrow: the first joint show by Austrian artists in China – and not the last, they hope.

## A group is born

The exhibition, titled "Mifan," showcases works based on cultural differences the artists encountered while living in China. But it's goal is to draw attention to Austrian talent.

"Chinese people can immediately identify Austrian musicians such as Mozart, Johann Strauss, Schubert, Schoenberg and Haydn. But they know little of our visual art – which is also brilliant – because the only cultural exchange between our two nations so far has been focused on music," said Karel Dudesek, the 55-year-old co-founder of ASAP.

In contrast, Chinese contemporary art is popular in Austria, Dudesek said. "Chinese contemporary artists, like Ai Weiwei, who is regarded as the leading Chinese contemporary art, are very famous in my country," he said.

"What's more, France, Britain and Germany have held Culture Year in China, but Austria hasn't done that," Dudesek said, referring to an event featuring a foreign country's culture and traditions. Holding such an activity in China is one of ASAP's immediate goals.

The idea for the group was born during one of the artists' gatherings at 798 Art District last year. "There was an expressed desire by those present to show our China-produced work in China and a hope for a more strongly represented Austrian community abroad," Dudesek said. "We must do something to show people in China what we have done in the country ... Because although the artists work here, they send their work back to Vienna and no Chinese audience ever see it."



One of the artists introducing the exhibition to Austrian Ambassador Martin Saidik (left).

## Austrian artists experience China



Most of the artists have been in China for only a year, but they've already adjusted to local life and have developed relationships with Chinese people: they mingle with traditional and contemporary Chinese painters, compose songs with local musicians and collaborate with Chinese fashion designers.

At the same time, they have brought to the city their brand of individuality: they custom-make vehicles with which to explore the city, put up banners if they have something to complain about, pass the city streets with Sichuan Opera make-up on and discuss the state of domestic media.

"Austrian artists are few in the country and most of us encounter a language barrier, but that has never hindered our communication with the locals," said Rainer Prohaska, 43, a member who came to Beijing for work a year ago and

explored the city for two months on his re-equipped three-wheel cargo bike.

At the exhibition, Prohaska will present the product of his interaction with Beijingers. He translated written comments made by Chinese people who inspected his modified electric tricycle. He collected them on large sheets of paper and attached them to his bike as he traveled the city.

"Chinese people are very kind and communicative. They always have a smile on their faces even if we don't know each other. Especially the younger generation, they're very open to the outside world, and you can see from their eyes that they're eager to learn," he said.

"As ASAP's first project, the joint exhibition is an important step toward building a platform for dialogue and exchange between the Chinese and Austrian art communities," Pro-

haska said.

Among the featured works is 28-year-old Lukas Birk's photo series – *A Moment's Departure* – which tackles the perception of time using old photographic material. He worked with Polaroid film that expired in 1991, which he discovered in a basement. The film was practically unusable but in the end delivered inspired results: the images' corrupted colors resembled yellowed photographs half a century old. Only when viewers study the images in detail do they realize the disparity between the photographs' "age" and their contemporary content.

There's also Jasmin Ladenhausen's *Copy of Copy*, inspired by a dress depicted in a painting by Chinese artist Chen Ke. The dress's design was passed on in "whispers" from designer to designer, who interpreted and altered it according to his or her concept of fashion.

## More for the future

Besides the exhibition, the artists are also planning to publish a book that will provide an insider's view of projects by China-based Austrian artists. The publication of these works, spanning 2003 to the present, will be published in Chinese, German and English.

ASAP is seeking funding for the book from the Austrian government and other organizations.

Through "Mifan," ASAP hopes there will arise more opportunities to work with Chinese artist considering how Chinese contemporary art has made great progress in the last 20 years.

Dudesek said Chinese artists are deeply rooted in Chinese history: most of their art integrates ink painting or calligraphy – two noticeable characteristics of local art. "On the one hand, this is good, but on the other hand, this is very difficult for foreigners to understand," he said. "However the situation is changing. Chinese artists have explored new ways to express their understanding of society and their feelings which are more popular on the global art market."

These are some of the things they foresee in a dialogue between the two sides.



## Mifan Exhibition

Where: Anniart, 797 Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 7-26, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 7783

Two Austrian artists walk by a local neighborhood.

Photos provided by Mifan organizers



# Health authorities urge citizens to get H1N1 vaccine



Primary students nationwide are receiving H1N1 shots.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

The Municipal Health Bureau is urging people to receive free H1N1 vaccinations following the death of a foreign tourist from the flu Tuesday. The campaign is preparing for a surge in H1N1 cases between winter and spring.

The 32-year-old Russian tourist arrived in Beijing on October 28 and died of the flu six days later in Beijing Ditan Hospital, one of the four hospitals which admits foreigners with H1N1 symptoms.

Beijing, along with other provinces, began giving free H1N1 vaccinations in October.

By month's end, nearly 3.8 million people in the country had been inoculated, with no reports of serious adverse reactions.

In the capital, more than 160,000 people, mostly students, have received the shots. Only 210 reported suffering discomfort afterward, such as allergic reactions and slight nausea.

"The vaccine is very safe and 85 percent effective," said Wu Jiang, director of the Local Epidemic Research Institute of Beijing Center for Disease Control.

More teachers, government workers and service sector employees are expected to receive

the vaccine in the coming weeks, the health bureau said.

China is a leading country in H1N1 vaccine research, production and inoculation. Governments of the 34 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities continue to call on residents to receive the free vaccine as soon as possible.

People getting it first need to sign documents saying they are doing so voluntarily. Anyone with symptoms like fever, cough, runny nose and allergies will not be vaccinated.

"After receiving a shot, it is best to stay in the clinic for another 30 minutes for observation," Zhou Jie, a nurse at Ditan Hospital, said. "Those who have been vaccinated should drink plenty of water but not let water touch the area injected or do strenuous activities."

Foreigners should contact their nearest health facility for more information, Zhou said. "At present the vaccination campaign is targeted at specific groups. Expats should contact nearby hospitals and clinics for more details."

For questions, call the Municipal Health Bureau at hotline number 12320.

## Webpage to encourage NGO workers, volunteers

By Jin Zhu

China NGO Viewpoints, a webpage where NGO staff and volunteers can share their experiences on the job, was recently launched to support industry workers.

Many young people are working for NGOs, especially in China, where the industry has boomed in recent years, and peer support is important, said Kay Zhang, Viewpoints' editor.

"We needed a platform to share stories and encourage each

other to continue working in NGOs. There is no shining example for anything; working in charity has peaks and troughs," said Zhang, communications manager at Care for Children, an international charity group.

As the first writer on Viewpoints, Zhang talked about her experiences working with Dare to Care, a donation program for hotel guests introduced in Shanghai-La hotels throughout the Asia Pacific. Her sharing generated

more offer of help.

"During the first week after Zhang's story was published, we received seven responses from various hotels asking how they can get involved in the program," said Danny Levinson, chief operating officer of ChinaCSR.com, which hosts Viewpoints.

ChinaCSR.com is the first China-based online publication devoted to providing news and information to help companies discover and implement new corpo-

rate social responsibility trends.

"In China, many companies do not have a clear or mature understanding of NGO work. They always wonder whether their donations are been used honestly. The platform aims to develop a closer relationship between companies and NGOs," Levinson said.

Viewpoints - through its stories - also hopes to help NGOs attract more skilled volunteers.

Instead of discussing controversial topics, the platform wants

to feature inspiring and thought-provoking stories. The articles are updated weekly and contributions in English or Chinese are welcome, as well as pictures. The editors are looking for 200- to 500-word pieces with a short introduction of the featured NGO and website links.

For contributions or questions, email [cfc.kay.zhang@gmail.com](mailto:cfc.kay.zhang@gmail.com) or visit the website:

[chinaacsr.com/en/category/china-ngo-viewpoints/](http://chinaacsr.com/en/category/china-ngo-viewpoints/).

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Aszure Barton's new piece One of Three

## UN of the ballet world

Based in New York, the ABT is one of the top ballet companies with world-class dancers and a wide-ranging and classic repertoire: it is often called "the museum of ballet."

ABT was founded to be a truly American-style ballet company and its establishment ushered in a new era in dance history. Along with the New York City Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet, the ABT is part of the "triumvirate of great classical companies defining the American style on the world stage today," *The Observer* said in 2007 when it performed in London.

All the ballets it has performed are choreographed in a way that combines traditional and contemporary elements.

Today, it is known for its unique American style that transcends cultural boundaries. Frequenting the best theaters in the US, including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, ABT has become the country's national ballet.

In its pursuit to be one of the top ballets in the world, ABT has successfully attracted preeminent ballet dancers and choreographers from around the globe to its list of masters. It is in this way that ABT clings to its American style while remaining open to the world.

Almost all the great dancers and choreographers of the last century collaborated with the company, including Russian choreographers and dancers George Balanchine, Michel Fokine and Bronislava Nijinska. British choreographer Antony Tudor made his American debut with ABT. The legendary US dancer and choreographer Agnes de Mille staged the majority of her ballet works with the company.

At the 2007 ABT alumni celebration, artistic director Kevin McKenzie described the night as a "family reunion."

The roll of that family read like a who's who and a who was who of the ballet world.

"We are like the mob," McKenzie said, "Once you join ABT, you never leave."

Over 30 percent of the dancers in the company are from outside the US, hailing from countries as diverse as France, Russia, Italy, Spain, Argentina and Brazil: it's the UN of dance.

## Latest piece made for concert

During the first two days, the company will present its "Contemporary Ballet Collection," which includes three new pieces which premiered for the first time at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts on October 15.

Because of ongoing renovation at the City Center, ABT performed at the Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center. The Avery Fisher was not built for ballet, but the choreographers made adjustments.

The choreographers of the three are the former art director of Bolshoi Theater Alexei

Romansky, the popular choreographer Benjamin Millepied and the well-known American choreographer Aszure Barton.

The adaptation was a new experiment for the 70-year-old company. Its choreographers and dancers adapted to a new performance space. The stage lacked both wings and an orchestra pit, and its dimensions, as befits a concert hall, were intimate compared with the depth of the house.

When a dancer from ABT said, "It is a strange venue," Barton replied, "As a modern dance choreographer, I can work anywhere."

The crew did not hire visual artists to redesign the theater, focusing instead on lighting and costumes. In Barton's dance, she used black-and-white to contrast with the warm stage and the mustard-colored seats.

In Millepied's work, 24 dancers appeared onstage to act as human pillars and framed the action.

"It is a great risk for ABT. But most of us are hungry for a new movement, a new way of doing things. As far as the dancers are concerned, they are just eating it up," David Hallberg, a dancer for Romansky, said.

The world premiere won great applause. "We were thrilled to appear at the Avery

Fisher Hall, and to continue our presence on the Lincoln Center campus," Rachel Moore, executive director of ABT, said. "These performances offer a wonderful opportunity for audiences to see dance in a new way."

The three performances at NCPA will be the first outside the US. It will give Chinese viewers a window into the latest trends of contemporary ballet and the cutting edge world of the art.

## A choice

Aside from contemporary ballet, the company will also perform an interpretation of the classic *Don Quixote* adapted in 1995 by the artistic director McKenzie.

The new adaptation restores the ballet's grand scenes, rich colors and sophisticated skills while placing it on a backdrop of American culture. But the actions and gestures remain hot, exciting and rooted in Spanish tradition. The original work's fantastic humor shines through in its distinctly Spanish take on life and pleasure.

*Don Quixote* demands dance skill. Among

the amazing dance scenes, several Spanish pas de deux and symphonic group dances demand the most attention. These are often performed at ballet galas, and have been used when competing at the international level.

But because the four pairs of dancers will perform *Don Quixote*'s story split over four performances, visitors may have a hard time deciding which one to see.

Paloma Herrera and Angel Corella are regarded as the "dream pair." They won the Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the Paris International Dance Competition for their selections from *Don Quixote* and *Pirate* in 1995.

Gillian Murphy and Ethan Stiefel in *Don Quixote*

Benjamin Millepied's new p





# Perfection

the classic, contemporary



piece Everything Doesn't Happen At Once

Photos provided by the National Center for the Performing Arts



Michele Wiles in *Don Quixote*

## American Ballet Theater 2009 Beijing Premiere

### ABT Contemporary Ballet Collection

Where: Opera House, National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 12-13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 000

### Don Quixote

Where: Opera House, National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

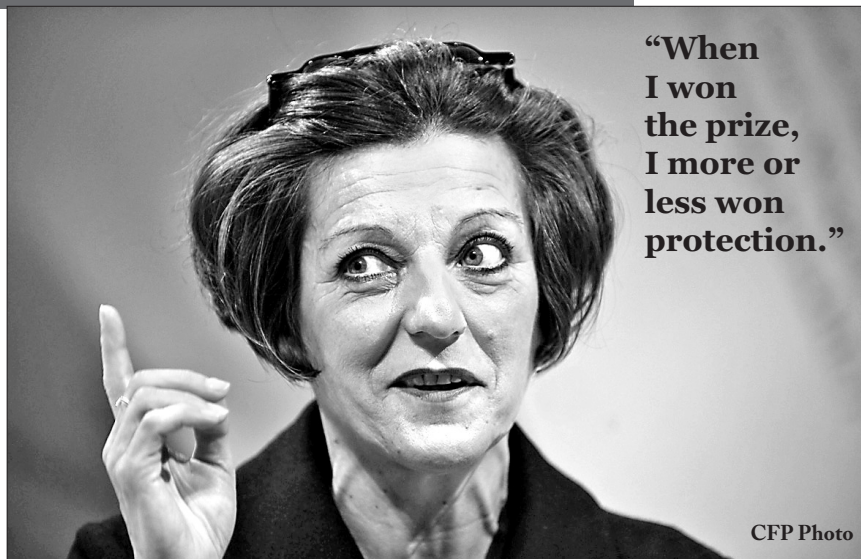
When: November 14-15, 2:30 pm; 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000



# Through the eyes of the dispossessed



By He Jianwei

Herta Muller is dark: her hair is raven, her eyeshadow is the night, her suit is inky, her stockings are sooty and her shoes are onyx.

Why should her writing be any different?

The new Nobel laureate appeared thrice in the five-day Frankfurt Book Fair last month and her appearance drew crowds.

Although the Romanian-born German poet and novelist was praised by Nobel judges for depicting the "landscape of the dispossessed" with "the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose," the German Book Prize did not grace her with the best German-language novel award before the opening of the book fair.

Germans were stunned that Muller was the third German-language writer to win the highest international literary award. And yet influential German literature critic Marcel Reich Ranicki refused to discuss her winning of the award.

The media was more interested in the political than the literary influence of her works. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Muller's Nobel win was "a

wonderful sign" 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Born in Nitchidorf, a German-speaking village of the Banat in western Romania, Muller's father served in the Waffen SS, the combat arm of the Nazi Party, and her mother survived five years in a Gulag labor camp in the Ukraine after World War II.

Muller's native language is German and she only started to learn Romanian from age 15. "I almost 'ate' this language (Romanian), because it tasted good. Romanian is closer to who I am than German. There are two languages in my brain," she said.

When comparing the languages, she pointed out how even a simple concept like a falling star can be interpreted differently. "We are not only speaking different words, but about different worlds. Romanians see a falling star and say that someone has died, while Germans look at it as something on which to wish," she said.

To many Romanians, Muller is just a dissident German. To many Germans, she is Romanian in spite of her native language and 20 years in Deutschland.

But to her way of thinking, one's "hometown" is more than just a country.

She said repeatedly in her interviews that she hated the word.

Still, "hometown" experience is the topic of her books. "The most overwhelming experience for me was living under the dictatorial regime of Romania. And simply living in Germany, hundreds of kilometers away, does not erase my experience," Muller said. "I packed up my past when I left, and remember that dictatorships are still a current topic in Germany."

Her latest novel *Everything I Own I Carry with Me*, a lyrical account of the fate of the Transylvanian Saxons as told by a young man in the Russian Gulags, was nominated for this year's German Book Prize. The story was born from her interviews with the poet Oskar Pastior, imprisoned from 1945 to 1949, and other Gulag survivors.

Most of her books deal with dictatorship. "To write as free as possible can frighten even the toughest dictators. When I won the prize, I more or less won protection. If a dictator kills me, many people will be concerned," she said.

The Nobel Prize will be bestowed on December 10 in Stockholm, Sweden. Her books will be available in Chinese next year.

## Job-jumping IT exec makes history again

By Shida Zhu

Kaifu Lee is loved by young people as an icon: his is the goal that is seemingly impossible to attain.

He made history a second time this year by abdicating the much-coveted throne of Google's Greater China presidency, leaving to pursue a venture of his own. Now the executive tells his story for the first time in *Making a World of Difference* (334pp, Zhongxin Publishing House, 29.80 yuan), an autobiography.

Lee was born into an exceptionally warm and open family, which regarded him as a "little emperor" as a kid and gave him the freedom to pick his own primary school at age 5. That extremely open and free environment was instrumental in making him a man of self-confidence: one poised for challenges of choice.

He received a good education in philosophy, literature, arts, music and skills, and all the ways to be a man. His fatherly doctorate tutor had a life-long influence on the executive by saying, "I don't agree with you, but I support you": a phrase which has since served



as Lee's motto, and which helped him while acting as a corporate chief executive officer. His attitude of accommodation and tolerance is part of his success story.

Lee rose to prominence when he was sued by Microsoft for joining

the search firm Google. Microsoft, his former employer, argued the Google job violated a non-competitive agreement, and Lee rebuffed the lawsuit as a "century one." Though legal drama brought him two months of misery, he later said he was thankful because – in addition to humiliation and fear – it gave him the confidence and courage to "change things that can be changed."

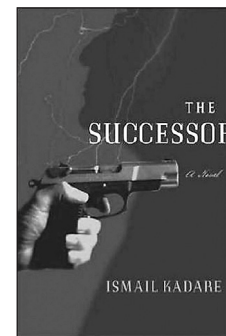
But he is so admired as a professional manager because he knows how to handle thorny things. Once, when he flew to India to attend a meeting, he was refused entry at the airport because his secretary forgot to acquire his visa. He returned to China, and instead of flying into rage, he told the secretary, "This won't happen again."

He said that upsets in life should not be seen as punishment, but as an opportunity to grow. Life is no accident, but a result of being free to choose as one wishes, being brave enough to make the choice and being willing to sacrifice for it.

As with his previous books, Lee will donate all royalties from this title to charity.

## CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

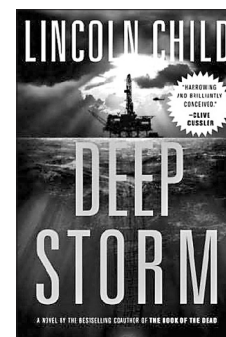
The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



**The Successor: A Novel**

By Ismail Kadare, 208pp, Arcade Publishing, \$13.99

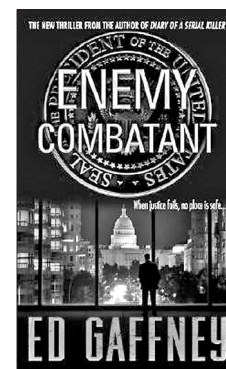
A powerful political novel based on the sudden, mysterious death of Mehmet Shehu, the man handpicked to succeed hated Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha. The world was so certain that he was next in line that he was known as "The Successor." And then, shortly before he was to assume power, he was found dead.



**Deep Storm**

By Lincoln Child, 432pp, Anchor, \$7.99

In this explosive new thriller, one of the most incredible and frightening discoveries mankind has ever faced is about to surface. On an oil platform in the middle of the North Atlantic, terrifying illnesses are afflicting the crew. When expert naval doctor Peter Crane is flown in, he finds his real destination is not the platform itself but *Deep Storm*: a top secret aquatic science facility 2 miles down on the ocean floor. As Crane soon learns, the covert operation is concealing something far more sinister than a medical mystery – and much more deadly.



**Enemy Combatant**

By Ed Gaffney, 368pp, Dell, \$6.99

Attorney Tom Carpenter was just a spectator at the trial of the decade until, to his own astonishment, he found himself thrust into a new case. The world thinks Carpenter's new client is guilty of the worst act of terrorism since 9/11 – except for one shadowy figure, who feeds Carpenter astounding inside information. But just as the truth is about to be revealed, he receives a chilling threat. Suddenly Carpenter cannot trust anyone, and his family must run for their lives.

(By He Jianwei)



# V\*tamins for seasonal fashion sense



By Zhang Dongya

The Village at Sanlitun hosted Style V\*tamin Autumn/Winter 2009 Collection, a catwalk fashion show, last Friday. The styles modeled gave local retailers a complete look at the season's trends.

The show, appearing for the first time at The Village, opened new territory in modern fashion.

The three-part V\*tamin was produced by Hong Kong fashion studio KK Fong. The name was selected for the show's offering of a "daily dose of style."

Its first part "Mix & Match" started with a grab bag of The Village's most popular offerings. Participating retailers included Adidas, Chow Sang Sang, Fansky, izzue.com and MOISELLE.

The clothing combinations were inspired by the "street chic" photography of KK Fong. "It is young, casual and a lot of fun. The style mixes men's suits with women's, and matches ladies' styles with sportswear," Lisa Kao, a Hong Kong designer at the fashion show, said.

The vibrant hues and flamboyant accessories were expected to influence the daily getups of fashionistas.

The edgy display was followed by "Striking Silhouettes," a city wear show featuring lines from Agnès B, b+ab, BMW Lifestyle, JNBY and Steve Madden. "It emphasizes the succinct and agile," Kao said. The featured suits are guaranteed to help overhaul any encapsulated work wardrobe to bring out the trendy city lady in everyone.

The final show "Chic Speaks" featured elegant and sleek clothing for the winter months by Antepima, Fanina Fanini, MOCKTAIL, Ports, Vivienne Tam and White Collar. Several of the brands are expected to be available soon at The Village.

"Unlike the rich colors of the first show, everything is black, white and grey. The evening dresses emphasize elegance and grace. The designs focus more on contours, style and tailoring skill," Kao said.

The trend for the season is sensational silhouettes, she said. "From tight-fitting pencil skirts and high-riding puff-ball skirts to cropped jackets with slimline belts, it's all about showing off a womanly silhouette," she said.

"Fashion is a big part of The Village at Sanlitun's community. We offer a well balanced mix of brands from international to local, from West to East and from chic to casual. It's a cosmopolitan melting pot of fashion and trends," Vanessa Marescialli, assistant director of The Village, said.



④ Striking Silhouettes

②③⑤⑥  
Chic Speaks

Photos provided  
by The Village



# Feet mates

## Shoes for running, basketball and lounging around

By Wang Yu

With last Sunday's heavy snow, there's no more doubt that winter is here again – and earlier than usual. The chilly weather and the drier air make working out a big challenge, not to mention it is so much trouble to get out of layers of clothing into exercise clothes.

But if anything, winter is the time to get the heart pumping. Go to the park and run, take a stroll around your neighborhood or round up your buddies for a game at the local basketball court. But first, make sure you have the right shoes for the activity. Look for a pair that supports your ankles and knees. And it doesn't hurt if you choose a look that says "style."

Below, *Beijing Today* presents some of the latest collection of sports shoes.



Photo provided by Lotto

### Lotto Marco Polo Limited Edition

Italian sports brand Lotto Leggenda recently released its Marco Polo Limited Edition shoes, named after the 13th century Venetian explorer who reached Chinese shores. The shoe design is themed "one start, two travels"; its left and right sides are not identical, reflecting two elements in Marco Polo's life: the rippling waters of his hometown Venice and the mottled stone path of Yangzhou where he once served as a municipal official.

The shoe tongue makes this model one-of-a-kind: on the outside is a pocket, which the designer says offers hope for travelers who get lost on their journey. Marco Polo, during his travels to the East, was robbed several times, so he developed the habit of keeping a coin in a secret place somewhere on his body. Lotto Marco Polo's pocket is not quite so hidden, but style like this is meant to be flashed.

Only 500 pairs of this model have been manufactured for the Chinese market. To check out the model, visit your local Lotto store or visit the company's website [cn.lottosport.com](http://cn.lottosport.com). The shoes may look sporty, but they were engineered for nothing more stressful than a dash to the local supermarket. But feel free to wear them on a stroll around your neighborhood.

Price: 1,250 yuan



### Adidas Supernova Riot 2

Nothing can be more fun and healthy than playing team sports such as basketball, soccer and volleyball. But if you prefer solitary exercise, running is a good choice. And it does not require any equipment or accessories aside from a good pair of shoes.

Take a break from stuffy gyms and boring treadmills by running outdoors: the city's parks offer scenic routes that take you back to nature's embrace. But be sure to run with the right shoes to protect your ankles and knees from injury on rugged terrain.

One of the newest cross-country shoes on the market is the Adidas Supernova Riot 2, which promises superb support, breathability and durability. GeoFit internal construction places padding in strategic positions, offering increased stability and distribution of pressure. Dual-density EVA midsoles with internal shanks provide support and cushion.

Its synthetic leather uppers are seamless so they're abrasion-resistant and provide a sock-like fit. Its nylon mesh panels are lightweight and highly breathable, while nylon linings absorb moisture and dry quickly. The trail-specific 3D ForMotion inserts at midfoot help feet adjust to surfaces, promoting a natural gait. The torsion system at the midfoot allows natural rotation between the rearfoot and the forefoot, helping improve surface adaptability while the medial supports reduce overpronation. AdiWEAR rubber outsoles give ample durability in high-wear areas.

Besides integrating the latest in running shoes technology, Supernova is available in an array of colors.

Price: 820 yuan



### Adidas ZX8000

The ZX series is Adidas' classic collection of running shoes. The series, which debuted in 1984, was designed in a variety of colors for professional long distance runners. This year, the brand released the ZX8000 to celebrate 25 years.

Like its predecessors, the ZX8000 was crafted for serious runners. Its features include a shock-absorbent heel area and lightweight, absorbent and elastic toe region. It has a mesh upper lining to maximize ventilation and a midsole built around an anatomically molded ethyl-vinyl acetate insole.

It also incorporates Adidas' Torsion system, which was engineered to protect and support the mid foot region and prevent sideways twisting. The outsole is made largely out of a soft, spongy material, but uses thin blown rubber for better traction. This helps reduce the weight of the shoe.

Adidas says the ZX8000's outsoles conform to the shape of the ground and are adaptable to changes in terrain. As a tradition of the series, the model is available in several colors.

Price: 820



Photos provided by Adidas



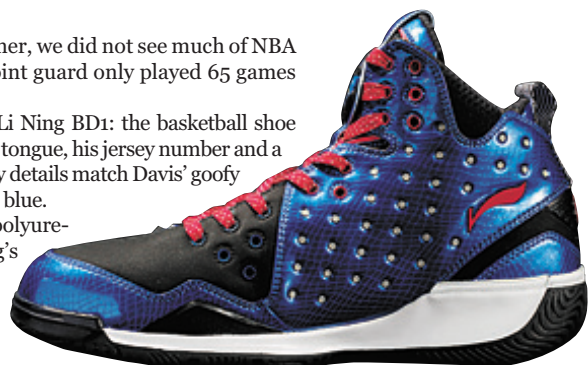
### Li Ning BD1

After leaving Reebok and signing with Li Ning last summer, we did not see much of NBA star Baron Davis on the court. The Los Angeles clippers point guard only played 65 games and largely sat out half of those contests.

Now he is making up for keeping a low profile with the Li Ning BD1: the basketball shoe features signature details like his name on the underside of the tongue, his jersey number and a "Baron's Beard" character on the tongue's pull tab. These funny details match Davis' goofy attitude and carefree vibe. The shoe comes in black, white and blue.

The shoe's main parts are made of TPU (Thermoplastic polyurethanes) that offers the feet flexibility and support. Li Ning's Cushion & Bounce technology in the tread also helps reduce shock and protect players from injury. Extra eyelets are provided for people who want extra lace support.

Price: 699 yuan



Photos provided by Li Ning



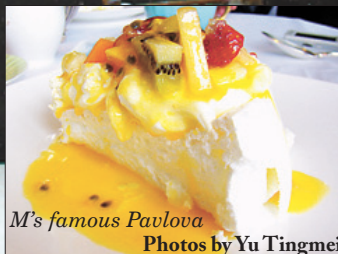
# Restaurants with good winter views

By Annie Wei

What better way to ease into the long, chilly winter than to discover new dishes that you can enjoy and share with friends in the coming months? *Beijing Today* presents three restaurants that will satisfy – whether you're craving Japanese dishes, seafood or Western cuisine.



The view from Capital M's balcony



M's famous Pavlova  
Photos by Yu Tingmei

## Let's Seafood

By Annie Wei

The owners of Let's Burger, one of the town's most popular burger places, has just opened a new restaurant a few doors away: Let's Seafood.

The Let's restaurants have one thing in common: huge American-size portions. A solo diner can order children's favorite deep-fried fish fillet with fries, or golden fish nuggets with fries – both 36 yuan.

Those with a bigger appetite can try everything from soup to dessert. The traditional French bouillabaisse soup (13 yuan) comes with imported scallops, fish, mussels, clams, scampi, tiger prawns and fennel.

A customer favorite is its organic salads with homemade dressing. They include smoked salmon salad (78 yuan) with Norwegian salmon; and chunky lobster salad (238 yuan) with Canadian lobster and salmon roe. The latter is pricey but lobster does not come cheap in our part of the world.

Other lobster dishes are Let's lobster (238 yuan), which is lobster tucked into grilled garlic and cheese; and the Atlantic lobster set (238 yuan), which includes grilled Atlantic lobster with garlic and lobster soup.

There's also creamy white wine mussels (75 yuan) with parsley and basil in white wine cream sauce; and Thai red curry mussels (75 yuan) with lemongrass, Thai basil and coconut in fragrant red curry sauce.

Let's Seafood recommends its

French oysters (168 yuan for six pieces) and deluxe grilled seafood combo (118 yuan) with imported King prawns, scallops, marlin, cuttlefish and deep-fried prawn roll.

If you'd rather pass on the seafood, no worries. The restaurant also offers pan-fried marlin steak with wild mushroom sauce (118 yuan) and grilled snapper with asparagus sauce (118 yuan).

Let's Seafood serves unlimited free bread in plain and garlic flavors. They are served with five homemade dips, including pine seeds and basil, and dried tomato and olive.

The restaurant has more wine options than its burger counterpart, but its interior decoration is comparable: both are spacious with big windows and European-style decor. The only drawback is the wind that can whip around the room, especially in winter.



Basil and pine nuts (left) and dry tomato (right) sauces

Photo by Wendy Zha

### Let's Seafood

Where: 1/F Nali Pation, 88 Sanlun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 11 pm

## Sunday brunch with an emperor's view

By Annie Wei

After wowing Hong Kong and Shanghai's expatriate communities with M at the Fringe and M on the Bund, Michelle Garnaut has opened his newest restaurant Capital M at Qianmen Avenue.

The *New York Times* reported last week that the Hong Kong and Shanghai restaurants generate \$10 million (68.2 million yuan) in revenue each year. M in Hong Kong opened in 1989 and the Shanghai one opened 10 years later – an opportune time to have gotten into the mainland's restaurant industry.

Capital M is the place to go for delectable food in a historic atmosphere. From the restaurant's balcony, diners have a view of Beijing's medial axis, which goes through Qianmen, Tian'anmen, Duanmen, Wumen, Shengwumen and Deshengmen.

Capital M offers big sets for Sunday brunch: 218 yuan for two courses including a cocktail and refillable tea or coffee, and 258 yuan for three courses with the same beverages.

To start the meal from a drink, one can choose bloody mary, Sunday pimm's, raspberry mojito, champagne cocktail, mimosa or fresh fruit and vegetable juices.

For the main course, *Beijing Today* recommends salmon kedgeree, an Anglo-Indian dish of curried rice with salmon flakes and exotic spices served with chapattis and flatbreads.

Capital M suggests tagliatelle pangratta tossed with breadcrumbs, chili, herbs and anchovy; or spicy lamb sausages served on sweet potato puree with sauteed spinach and sweet tomato jam.

There's also blueberry pancakes with maple syrup and crispy bacon; or red berry compote, grilled walnut and banana bread with honeyed mascarpone; and fried frog's legs served with kamot pepper, coriander and wine.

For dessert, *Beijing Today* recommends M's famous Pavlova. The slightly crispy meringue goes well with fresh fruits, especially passion fruit. The restaurant recommends chocolate nougatine with fresh strawberries and almond toast.

### Capital M

Where: 3/F, 2 Qianmen Avenue, Chongwen District

Open: 11:30 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6702 2727

## Fast and affordable Japanese

By Annie Wei

There was a time that having affordable Japanese food in town meant eating sushi or sashimi however bastardized. The only way out was to spend at least 100 yuan on a proper Japanese meal.

So the opening of Wanjin Lamian at China View Building, across the Workers Stadium's east gate, has been a welcome development. The two-story restaurant offers simple Japanese dishes at affordable prices; it has forgone the sushi and sashimi to pull down its menu's average price.

An order of green soybeans costs eight yuan; it is normally priced at least 12 yuan in other Japanese restaurants. Deep-fried tofu is 10 yuan, at least five yuan cheaper than other places. Zhurou Weizengzhu, or miso pork, costs 20 yuan, while stir-fried chicken skin is 10 yuan.

Wanjin's best deals are its rice sets (10 yuan), which come with either rice and miso soup, or ramen and pork rice. The servings are small. But for 10 yuan, you can afford to order other dishes.

Ramen costs 35 to 40 yuan a bowl. Add five yuan if you want more noodles.

In a rush to finish lunch? Order the curry rice (35 yuan), pork rice (45 yuan) or beef rice (40 yuan).

Wanjin, which opened in June, is popular among the Worker Stadium area's residents and office workers. Many of the customers are Japanese and they come specifically for sake (30 to 35 yuan per pot;



Fried tofu, 10 yuan



Fried fish, 30 yuan Photos by Wendy Zha

240 yuan a bottle).

Most of the tables are on the second floor, which is decorated with paper lamps.

### Wanjin Lamian

Where: 4-106, China View Building, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 5:30-11 pm

Tel: 8587 1331



# From basement to Billboard chart

By Wang Yu

For teenagers who want to get involved in the music scene, the story below should be encouraging.

In the US state of Minnesota lies a small town called Owatonna with roughly 22,000 inhabitants. At the basement of a modest house in a quiet neighborhood is where you'll find 23-year-old Adam Young, aka Owl City, hard at work perfecting candy-coated electro-pop, like a hipster Willy Wonka.

From the "cave" of his parents' basement, as Young likes to call his sanctuary, he has begun to quickly win over a large international audience thirsty for something genuine, melodically infectious and uplifting. The same adjectives could easily describe Owl City's first full-length album, *Ocean Eyes*, soon to be released by Universal Records in China after becoming No. 2 on iTunes earlier this year. It was recorded in – you guessed it – the basement of his home.

Young's brand of fizzy, escapist electro-cotton candy has earned him comparisons to fellow synthesizer-lovers the Postal Service. But the ambiance of Young's music – conjuring up hot-air balloon rides, underwater dives and

sun-bleached landscapes – represents the workings of his imagination fused with influences ranging from New Wave to disco and synthpop.

Listening to Owl City's music is a form of relaxation: it features jumping drum loops and acoustic guitar rhythms. Having gained a rabid following on MySpace, Young released his EP of June in 2007, followed by *Maybe I'm Dreaming* in 2008. The latter hit No. 16 on the Billboard album charts, a jaw-dropping debut from an indie singer-songwriter.

Split Works is bringing Young to China for the first time. In Beijing, the young singer will be joined onstage by Silkfloss, a local indie pop band that shares Young's

musical attitude. Silkfloss consists of four members who like to create songs mainly with the help of synthesizers. Its drum beats are light, a contrast to its intense melodies.

The opening act is sure to keep audiences on their toes until the "basement boy" comes out.

## Owl City China Tour

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: November 21, 7 pm

Admission: 120 yuan (advance sales); 160 yuan (at door)

Tel: 8402 8477

## Upcoming

### Exhibition

#### 30 Degrees

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen Dong Dajie, Chongwen District

When: November 14 – December 13, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

## Stage in December

### Concert

#### Piano Recital by Cristina Ortiz (Brazil)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

When: December 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

#### Piano Recital by Michael Tsalka (Israel)

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

When: December 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

#### Vienna Festival Philharmonic Orchestra New Year Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 28, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 5166 1145

#### Secret Garden Duo Concert 2009

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tian'anmen Square), Xicheng District

When: December 30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 5128 6286

#### Dance

#### Peony Pavilion – National Ballet of China (NBC) 50th Anniversary Series

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 8-9, 7:30

Admission: 120-600 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

#### Prism

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: December 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

#### Haze

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: December 19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

#### Opera

#### Goodbye, UFO – The "First 3D Acrobatic Musical"

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: December 17 – January 19, 2010, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6831 6633

#### Monologues – Revel's World of Shakespeare

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: December 19-27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 120 yuan

Tel: 5129 0082

(By Jackie Zhang)

## Friday, November 6

### Exhibition



#### The First China Cartoon & Animation Artistic Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until November 18, daily, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

#### String Field – Jiang Dahai Solo Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 8, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 5876 0600

### Movie

#### Home

Where: Sculpting in Time (inside Beihang University), 37 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8231 0664

#### Manufactured Landscapes

Where: Blue Bud Cafe, 3 Guowang Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8404 5129

### Nightlife

#### A-OK's

#### 6th Birthday

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission:

50 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080



## Saturday, November 7

### Exhibition

#### My Garden of Loneliness – Mu Lintong Solo Exhibition

Where: Line Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9916



#### William Alexander's Qianlong Empire

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 15, daily, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 5876 0600

### Movie

#### Half-Life – 2nd EU Film Festival

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 5:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9269

### Nightlife

#### Song for Fennie

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40 yuan; 30 yuan for students

Tel: 5900 0969

#### The Toxic Avenger

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm

Admission: 80 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

## Sunday, November 8

### Exhibition

#### Retrospective to commemorate 150th birthday of

#### Fu Baoshi

Where: Poly Art Museum, 2/F Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until November 10, daily, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6408 2181



#### Fifth Anniversary Exhibition of China Realism School

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until November 10, daily, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

### Movie

#### Cashback

Where: No. 3 Club, 43 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian District

When: 3 pm

Admission: 20 yuan (includes a soft drink)

Tel: 8211 5288

### Nightlife

#### Canadian Quartetto Gelato Concert

Where: National Library of China Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-580 yuan

Tel: 6211 7075

#### Wangyouhu Band

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6401 4611



# A cure that is easy to swallow

By Venus Lee

You do it an average of 600 times a day, but you probably do not think about swallowing – at least until something has gone horribly wrong.

Estimates suggest that one in 10 people has a swallowing disorder. Besides being unpleasant, swallowing disorders can negatively affect overall health.

## Electrotherapy a treatment

A study found transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) was one of the best treatments for swallowing disorders. In TENS, electrodes are attached to key nerves to stimulate nearby muscles.

The study measured the clinical effect of TENS on six patients with chronic swallowing disorder. Patients received 12 treatments throughout the study. By its conclusion, 80 percent of the patients experienced significant improvement, and none rated his post-therapy swallowing ability as below the baseline.

All patients improved their Functional Oral Intake (FOIS) score, and most progressed from a restricted, single-consistency diet to a full oral diet. The average weight gain for the group over the three-week treatment period was a kilogram.

The results were first presented by Peter C. Belafsky, a researcher at the Center for Voice and Swallowing, University of California Davis Medical Center, at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology in September, and it was published in the journal *Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery*.

The primary non-surgical therapies in the industry continue to be dietary restriction, swallowing maneuvers and exercises, all of which have poor results. Electrical stimulation has been used in rehabilitative medicine to retard disuse atrophy, exercise striated muscle and accelerate wound healing, but its use to stimulate the swallowing mechanism is relatively new.

According to the authors, the results of the control study suggest that TENS is superior to the traditional treatments for patients in nursing homes. Individuals treated with TENS required fewer sessions and required shorter hospitalization.

## Causes of swallowing troubles

Until recently, swallowing ability was assumed to deteriorate with age, but new research suggests age alone cannot be the cause, said Liu Guangxin, chief physician of Peking University First Hospital's Digestive System Department.

Some swallowing problems originate in the upper end of the food passage: the mouth and throat. The most common cause in adults is stroke: research shows that up to 45 percent of stroke sufferers exhibit early signs of swallowing disorder, although this usually passes after a few weeks. Other causes are brain injury after a fall, degenerative diseases like Parkinson's Disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Such swallowing disorders can also be caused or aggravated by hundreds of commonly used drugs that adversely affect the flow of saliva in the mouth and throat: anticholinergic drugs, antihistamines, anti-

depressants, diuretics and calcium channel blockers used to treat high blood pressure.

Another type of dysphagia originates in the esophagus. Structural abnormalities and chronic gastric reflux can cause the esophagus to become inflamed and abnormally narrow. Potassium and iron supplements can also damage the lining of the esophagus. It can also be injured by swallowing too many pills or very large pills without water, or by swallowing them while lying down. "Older people with or without swallowing problems should always swallow pills with plenty of fluids and remain upright for 15 to 20 minutes," Liu said.

## Be aware of symptoms

Although rarely talked about, swallowing disorders often have devastating consequences. Liu said more people die annually from complications associated with swallowing disorders than from liver and kidney disease and HIV-AIDS combined.

"A person with dysphagia can choke while eating or drinking, and he or she may breathe in food and liquid, which can cause serious pneumonia," he said. "People who can't swallow properly are also more likely to become underweight and malnourished, and they often become embarrassed or anxious about eating, which can lead to social isolation and depression."

Speak to your doctor if you experience one or more of the following symptoms:

### 1. Discomfort while eating:

You have trouble starting to swallow once food or liquid is in your mouth, and it often feels as if the food is stuck in your throat or chest.

### 2. Coughing during eating:

"Coughing is a nonspecific response to a variety of stimuli usually originating in the pharynx, larynx or lungs. When coughing occurs during, or immediately after swallowing, the symptom suggests a swallowing problem," Liu said.

### 3. Regurgitation:

After eating you spit up bits of food. "With regurgitation, material returns effortlessly to the mouth or throat. This contrasts with vomiting, during which nausea and retching are present and the contraction of the abdominal muscles and diaphragm play an important role," he said. "When patients say the regurgitated material tastes the same, a swallowing disorder is usually present."

### 4. Other signs:

You experience heartburn or a bitter aftertaste, sore throat, hoarseness and shortness of breath. "The relationship between swallowing and these symptoms may not be obvious. All of these symptoms may arise from a variety of other sources and none are specific to swallowing disorders," he said.



CFP Photo

## Other treatments

Liu said sometimes just learning different physical techniques is enough to improve swallowing ability. "Various techniques can make eating more comfortable. A swallowing therapist can help to create a strategy for each case," he said.

### 1. Avoid eating when tired or stressed.

### 2. Tuck your chin toward your chest when swallowing.

### 3. Minimize head movements.

### 4. Eat smaller, more frequent meals.

### 5. Lubricate dry food by mixing it with a sauce.

### 6. Always swallow all food in the mouth before taking another bite.

### 7. Do not eat foods that stick together like fresh bread.

### 8. Thickened liquids are generally easier to swallow.

Medical interventions is sometimes necessary. There are non-invasive ways to stretch the esophagus, and some people respond well to medication. Some can reduce stomach acid, overcome spasms of the esophagus or just help the nearby nerves to function better.

Surgery is an option for some swallowing disorders. Surgical treatments depend on the location of the swallowing disorder, and may involve strengthening or loosening the upper or lower esophageal valves, or removing obstructions or tumors from the esophagus.



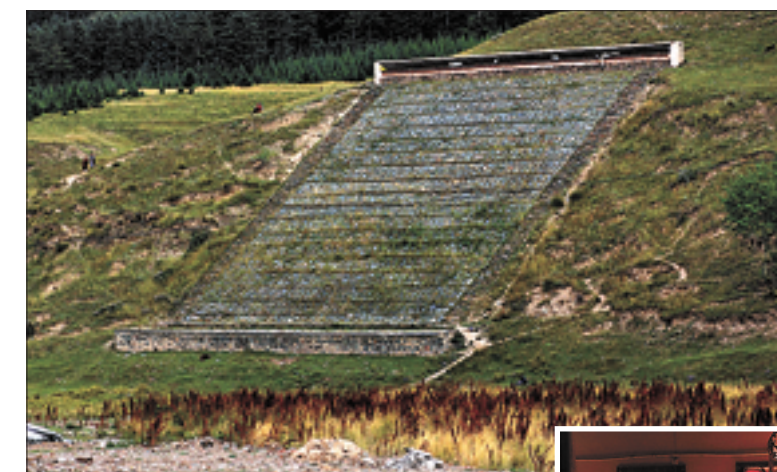
# Reaching for the sun and sky

Tibetan towns and prairies in Gannan, Gansu Province

By Zhang Dongya

Gansu Province, a long and narrow strip of land in the northwest, has become familiar to foreign travelers because it's on the train route from Beijing to Lhasa. But to the Chinese, the province is known for the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which features old Tibetan towns infused with religiosity and prairies with grand views.

Gannan draws hordes of Tibetan Buddhist devotees as well as photographers looking to enrich their portfolios.



A number of religious ceremonies are held in Labrang every year.



A Gannan resident in traditional clothes



Hongshi International Youth Hotel near Labrang Temple



Labrang was the largest Buddhist monastic university for monks in the early 20th century.

Photos by Zhao Yan



Labrang is the most important temple in Gannan.

## Top monasteries once upon a time

No. 1 on the itinerary of visitors to Gannan is its Tibetan Buddhist temples, the most important of which is Labrang Temple and the earliest of which is Chanding Temple.

Labrang, located in Xiahe County, about four hours from Gansu's capital Lanzhou, is one of the Six Great Monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism's Geluk, or Yellow Hat, school. The four others are in Tibet and another one is in Qinghai.

Founded in 1709, Labrang is home to 500 Tibetan Buddhist monks – the greatest concentration outside Tibet. It was one of the largest Buddhist monastic universities in the early 20th century, when at its peak it housed 2,000 monks. It was also a gathering place on numerous religious festivals. Its decline began in 1958, when it was ordered to close within 12 years.

The grand temple contains 18 halls, six learning institutes, a golden stupa, a sutra debate area, a huge collection of Buddha statues in various sizes and nearly 60,000 sutras. Its white walls and gold roofs feature a blend of Tibetan and Han Chinese architecture, including frescoes telling Buddhist stories.

Chanding Temple, built in 1254, is situated in Zhuoni County, about eight hours from Lanzhou. During China's last three dynasties – from 1206 to 1911 – Chanding was the most famous Tibetan Buddhist monastery and was the county's

religious, political and cultural center. During that period, it housed as many as 3,000 monks and drew flocks of people asking for blessings.

Its monk population has since dwindled to a hundred, and it is often overlooked by tourists since it's quite a distance from other attractions. It was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution but restored afterward. Since it does not get too many visitors, it is relatively quiet and is conducive to prayer and reflection.

## Tibetan town called Langmu Temple

Langmu Temple is not actually a temple but a small town on the border of Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

Bailong, or the White Dragon, River divides the town into two halves: its northwestern side is called Langmusi Town, Gansu, and its southeastern side Nanmusi Town, Sichuan. In the Tibetan dialect, the two names mean "fairy."

Langmu is a stereotypical small town: locals shuttle back and forth all day, merchants peddle wares in the narrow streets and buildings contain both ancient and modern elements.

Its best times are early morning and nightfall. In the morning, smoke emanating from kitchen chimneys swirl in the mist and seems to reach for the clouds, while residents balancing pails of freshly-fetched water on shoulder poles crowd the narrow streets. At dusk, the disappearing sun dyes the sky red. Chimneys again puff out smoke as households get busy preparing dinner.

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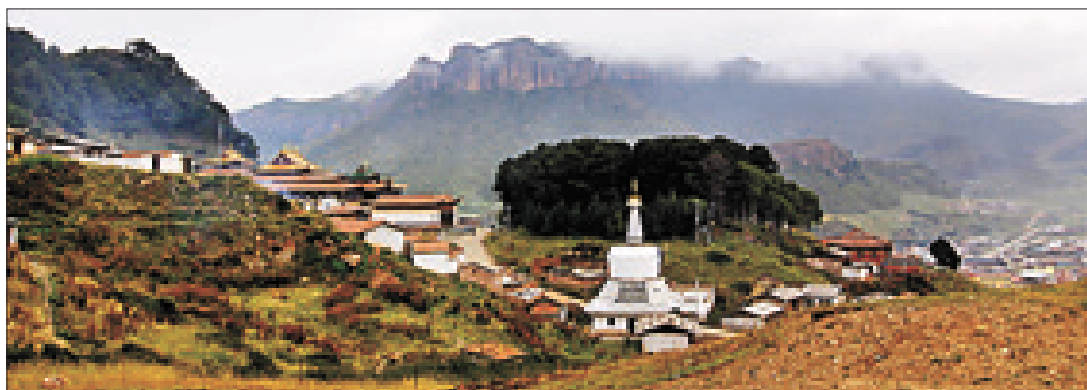
Sangke Prairie is known for its excellent pasture.



Colorful sutra flags in Langmusi



Tubs with sutra scripts in Langmusi



Langmusi is a small Tibetan town on the border of Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

Tales say that Langmu was “discovered” by a European traveler 30 years ago. The visitor reportedly found in town a red hill that reminded him of a mountain in Switzerland; thus he called it the “little Switzerland in the East.”

Today, groups of foreign backpackers are often seen walking around town.

Another foreigner, a missionary from the US, helped popularize Langmu. Town records show he came in the 1940s and left in 1957. During the decade he lived there, he completely immersed himself in local life: he made friends with the residents, wore their clothes and shared their hobbies. Upon his return to the US, he published a book titled *Tibet Life*, which talked about the way of life in Langmu.

Soon, foreign visitors who read the book came, hoping to get a first-hand look at the life the missionary described. Some of them found his old neighbor and asked him to share stories about the missionary.

Another of Langmu’s distinguishing factors is its residents’ practice of sky, or celestial, burial. It is the only site of its kind in China where the religious ritual is open to the public.

The practice, which dates back 400 years, reflects the Tibetan Buddhists’ belief that the sky is where

the sacred world lies. To merge with the sky – when the body is eaten up by hawks or vultures – is a holy event and replaces the sufferings of this world with peace. The site is decorated with colorful Tibetan Buddhist prayer flags.

### Grand views of prairies

Gannan prefecture has a huge expanse of prairies with beautiful scenery. The most well-known are Sangke and Maqu.

Sangke is situated between Langmusi Town and Labrang Temple, about 10 kilometers southwest of Xiahe County. It measures 70 square kilometers and lies 3,000 meters above sea level.

The prairie is named after its summer-blooming sangke flowers, which form a natural carpet and extend as far as the eyes can see. The area is known for its excellent pasture and magnificent Buddhist ceremonies. On a regular day, countless sheep, yaks and shepherds’ tents dot the landscape.

On one side is the Daxia River, which twists through the grasslands like a silk belt, reflecting sky and surrounding mountains.

Maqu Prairie, located in Maqu County, has a view to rival Sangke’s. It is also famous for its link to the Yellow River, the country’s second longest. Maqu, what the Tibetans call the Yellow River, means “river of the peacock.”

The Yellow River’s path through Maqu prairie forms a big bend. In 1978, a bridge was built across the river and gained fame across the country as “the first Yellow River bridge.”

Visitors can travel by bicycle or on horseback in the prairies. It is possible to stay overnight in a rented tent or stay with a local family and taste Tibetan food such as yak-butter tea, stuffed steamed buns, mutton and *tsampa*, a Tibetan staple of roasted highland barley flour.



Sheep, yaks and shepherds’ tents are a common sight in Sangke Prairie.



Lisa Restaurant in Langmusi is popular with foreigners. Photos by Zhao Yan

### Travel information

#### Getting there

From Beijing, the first leg of the trip is the journey to Lanzhou. Travelers can fly down or take a train, the fastest of which takes 18 hours. From Lanzhou, take a bus to Linxia (two hours), then transfer to another bus to Xiahe County (three hours), where Labrang Temple can be found.

From Labrang, travelers need to take a bus (four hours) to Langmusi Town. Sangke Prairie can be seen along the way. From Langmusi, it’s another two hours to Maqu Prairie.

#### Accommodations

There are many budget hotels around Labrang Temple and Langmusi Town. Langmusi’s Sala Hotel and Langmusi Hotel are highly recommended; the latter is popular with foreigners. Near Labrang are Zhuoma Hotel and Xueyu Hotel. Remember to make early reservations.

#### Notes

1. The best season to visit Gannan’s prairies is in the summer, when the sangke flowers are in full bloom. Its peak tourist months are from May to October.

2. In Labrang Temple and Langmusi Town, there are many things to enjoy year-round. In January, for instance, a great Buddhist ceremony is held, featuring sutra chanting and sutra debates.

3. There is a considerable difference in temperature between day and night times, so bring warmer clothing.



## Dining

### Voyage of International Cuisines

The innovative VIC restaurant takes casual dining to the next level. Its open kitchen offers a tour of world cuisines from Beijing to Paris with stopovers in Tokyo, Bombay, Rome and New York. French savoir faire is its forte, with unparalleled fine breads, pastries and cheeses.

Where: VIC, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 8599 6666

### Seafood and steak feast

Do yourself a flavor: feast at the Atrium Cafe. Have a splashing good time while dining on our fresh catch-of-the-day or sinking your teeth into our finest steak, sirloin and prime rib cuts fresh from the carver and grilled to your preference.

Where: Atrium Cafe, Gloria Hotel Beijing, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30

Cost: 168 yuan per person, subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 6515 8855 ext. 2212

### Star chef at Blu Lobster

For a week in November, the chef of two-star Michelin restaurant Nicholas Le Bec will be whipping up magic at the Blu Lobster, Shangri-La Beijing, together with its executive chef Jordi Villegas.

Le Bec has been cooking since he was 17. At 25, he was running a 50-person brigade. He earned his first Michelin star at 32 at his own restaurant, Restaurant Le Bec, in Lyon, only two months after it opened.

Come savor European cuisine at its best, created by one to whom cooking came as naturally as scouring the Breton beaches for shellfish as a boy.

Where: Blu Lobster, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: November 17-22

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6727

(By Jackie Zhang)

### Special Thanksgiving treats

Busy on Thanksgiving Day? Now you can enjoy special treats at L Cafe. Chef Perie, who lived and worked in the US for many years, knows what Thanksgiving is all about. The unique Thanksgiving

celebration menu is served a la carte and is available throughout the month.

Where: L Cafe, Legendale Hotel, 90-92 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: November 1-30, 11 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8511 3388

### Chimay Tuesdays

Buy two Chimay Beers, get one free. Take a bottle of Chimay, an authentic Trappist beer, uncork it and smell its subtle aromas. Pour it slowly into a Trappist chalice, close your eyes and savor.

Where: Beer Mania, 1/F Taiyue Fang, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Tuesday

Tel: 6585 0786

### Winter soups & salads

Learn to make home-made soups and hearty salads from scratch at Shalu Asnani's new vegetarian cooking class. Learn a fresh and creative approach to healthy cooking using easily available local ingredients.

Where: The Yin Yang Community Center, 1 Hegezhuang Cun, Cuigezhuang Xiang, Chaoyang District

When: November 20, 12:30-3:30 pm

Cost: 250 yuan (minimum of four students, maximum of seven)

Tel: 6431 2108

### Fantasy Christmas Eve

As Christmas draws near, it is the time for families, friends and festivities. Traders Hotel is presenting a Fantasy Christmas Eve to celebrate this time of the year. A Christmas buffet dinner, live entertainment and raffle will make for a truly unforgettable party. A range of Christmas sweets, festive baskets packed full of the finest goodies and take-away turkeys are being prepared for you, your family and your friends.

Where: Traders Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6505 1841



## Hotel

### Matthias Roeke GM of New China World Summit Wing

Matthias Roeke has been appointed general manager of China World Summit Wing, Beijing, a luxurious hotel by Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts set to open in the 330-meter-tall China World Tower at the China World Trade Center complex. Roeke will lead the pre-opening team in creating what the team hopes will be an iconic new sanctuary. China World Summit Wing is scheduled to open between the end of 2009 and early 2010.

## Event

### Thank Funk It's Friday

Celebrate the end of the week in the intimate surroundings of the internationally acclaimed Zeta Bar while listening to the finest in soul, funk, rare grooves and disco mixed by funk specialist DJ Florian.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: Free entrance; drinks 50 percent off from 6-9 pm

Tel: 5865 5050 or 5125

### November sushi class

Join Bei's award-winning chef Max Levy for a comprehensive series of sushi classes. Levy will take you through the intricate aspects of sushi-making in a step-by-step demonstration.

Where: Bei, The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Starts on November 4 with a weekend class on November 7

Cost: 388 yuan per person; includes tasting, ingredients and materials

Tel: 6410 5230

### Alfa's Ladies Night

Thursdays at Alfa belong to the ladies. Ladies drink free all night and all appetizers are half price. Have a girl's night out at an evening dedicated especially to the ladies.

Where: Alfa, 6 Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6413 0086



## Store

### New pantry products

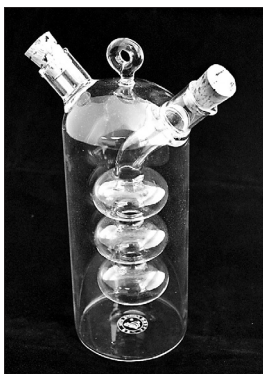
New products at Pantry Magic include a 2-in-1 vinegar and oil cruet, pure spoon rest, combination cake tin and bread bin, and a butter keeper.

The oil and vinegar cruet designs vary and are made from various materials. Because of the acidity in vinegar and the delicate flavor of olive oil, glass vessels make the best cruet dispensers. One cruet style is the popular "glass within a glass." The store currently has oil and vinegar grape, bomb and bubble cruets available.

Glass cruets make a very elegant statement on the dining table and can be an interesting conversation piece.

Where: Pantry Magic, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5208 6001



(By Jackie Zhang)

## Tourism

### Jordan Rose City Petra

Often described as the eighth wonder of the ancient world, Petra is a unique city. It is carved into a sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab civilization who settled Jordan 2,000 years ago turning it into an important junction for trade between China and India, and southern Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome.

To visit Petra during daylight is an awe-inspiring experience; at night, by the light of 1,800 candles, it is truly an out-of-this-world experience. Tours take place three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting at 8:30 pm and ending at 10 pm.

See visitjordan.com for more information.

## Aviation

### Lufthansa voted Best European Airline in Asia

The German airline was chosen by readers of leading Asian magazines as the tourism industry's Best European Airline. Readers of the magazines from the TTG Asia Media Group, TTG Asia, TTG China, TTGmice and TTG-BTmice China, voted unanimously for Lufthansa. It also placed in the top three with the Asian edition of the globally published magazine *Business Traveller* as best European airline and for its Miles & More loyalty program.

### Silkair flies daily between Singapore, Hyderabad

SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, is now operating daily flights between Singapore and the Indian city of Hyderabad. There are now six flights to Kathmandu, increased from the previous five. It also operates 28 weekly flights to Phuket, up from a previous 25, and three weekly flights to Kunming, up from a previous two.

(By Sun Feng)



## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

## Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

### 1. He is punished for a term in jail rather than in prison.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** Theoretically there is nothing wrong with this sentence. As "jail" means a prison, especially one for people awaiting trial or being punished for some small offense, it is all right to say that he is punished for a term in jail, in contrast to a longer term in a prison cell. When "jail" is independently used, it is perfectly right to say: The police arrested and jailed the suspect for theft, or, He is punished for a term in jail for his theft, namely, he is punished for a term in detention for theft. However, the sentence is very confusing in terms of concept. As you know, the preferred explanation in dictionaries for the word "jail" is "prison." When the two things that may mean the same thing are put together, it causes some confusion in cognition. So, advisably, it should be: He is punished for a term in detention rather than in prison. This is clearer in meaning, I presume.

**Native speaker Steven Sandor (SS):** While the dictionary may not recognize the distinction, prisons and jails are worlds apart. Many style guides, including that used by the Associated Press, take special care to distinguish between the two words which have widely different legal implications. "Prison" is the generic term for any maximum security penitentiary or medium security holding institution: a "correctional institution" or "reformatory." Such facilities detain prisoners who are serving long-term sentences. A "jail" is a minimum-security facility for short-term detention. Typically, jailed people are sentenced for petty crimes, detained for civil infractions or being held while they await court processing. A jail can also be used to detain people found in contempt of court.

### 2. His idea to combining painting with prose

**ZS:** The problem here lies in whether to use the infinitive or participle phrase after the word "idea." The answer is definitely the former. If you plan to modify the word "idea," you will need an infinitive phrase. For instance, His idea to raise fish in the paddy fields has helped him to get rich without any additional investment in a few years. Similarly, His urge to make everything perfect makes his life fairly tiresome. However, there are some nouns that are followed by a participle phrase: With a view to making more income, the farmer tried to raise fish in his paddy fields.

### 3. It is strange to that one day this idea popped into my head.

**ZS:** This is something related to the Chinese saying "painting a snake with feet." The writer has put something totally unnecessary in the sentence. As we know, the phrase "it is strange that" followed by an object clause is perfect. It is not necessary to say "it is strange to that." We have a formal sentence structure here: It is totally unacceptable that he left the city without telling his family. It is strange that she is attired in such a funny dress. It is fairly kind of you to have helped those homeless people.

**SS:** This is confusing, and it would probably be better to rewrite this sentence than attempt to repair it. Depending on the intended meaning, I would suggest either, "It was strange for such an idea to pop into his head," or, "It was strange that on that day the idea popped into his head."

# A birthday with steak in a doggie bag

By Han Manman

Lately, I've been craving Western food, particularly steak. This reminds me of my first visit to a steak house, which left me with a face redder than tomato juice.

When I was in college, I rarely went to Western restaurants because they were too pricey for my student budget. But on one birthday, an American friend, Tommy, offered to buy me dinner at a steak house managed by another American.

I got nervous the moment I stepped into the classy-looking restaurant. My idea of eating out at that point was going to the Chengdu Xiaochi across from school.

"What do you recommend?" I asked the manager, Tommy's friend Bob, who gave us special service. I could not understand 90 percent of the menu items but was too embarrassed to ask Tommy since Bob was standing right beside us.

Bob suggested a steak – their specialty. Of course, silly me!

"OK, I'll have a steak," I said with a relieved smile.

"How would you like your steak done?" he said.

I didn't understand the question but overheard a diner at the next table answer the same question with "medium." I thought it must mean how big a portion I wanted.

"I want it large, thanks," I said. Since I was celebrating my birthday, I might as well do it right.

Bob looked confused. "I'm sorry but ..." he said, turning to Tommy.

"OK, I'll have a small one then," I blurted out in panic.

Tommy knew I needed some translation help, so in broken Chinese he said, "He's asking how well you'd like the meat cooked."

"Eighty percent!" I said a bit too enthusiastically.

By then Tommy realized I had no clue what to say, so he told Bob, "medium well for her."

When Bob left to place our order,



Tommy gave me a crash course on ordering steak. He said that the waiter or waitress will always ask, "How would you like your steak done?"

The meat is cooked at different lengths of time, depending on the diner's preference: rare, medium rare, medium, medium well or well done. Rare is the least cooked, in which the meat's center remains cool and a bit bloody. A well-done steak is hot and brown at the center.

Despite the embarrassing episode, I enjoyed my "80-percent" cooked steak. At least I got my order of tomato juice right the first time.

I had a good portion of meat left after the meal and wanted to have it for lunch

the following day. When Bob stopped by our table, I pointed to the steak and said, "I want to take this home."

"Sure, we can put that in a doggie bag for you," he said.

A doggie bag? I felt insulted. "No, I want the steak for lunch tomorrow. It's not for my dog. I don't even have a dog!" I said a bit too loudly.

Bob grinned and Tommy burst out laughing. Tommy explained that a "doggie bag" was a bag that restaurants used to wrap food that customers wanted to take home. It did not mean the food was to be given to pets.

My only consolation that evening was that I didn't have to pick up the tab for 300 yuan.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Smoking pot



By Tiffany Tan

The last time I checked, smoking pot – also called marijuana, weed, Mary Jane, dope, bud, herb – was still illegal in China. Never mind what the sign says.

I don't think it was meant to bait unsuspecting foreign tourists, although I wouldn't be surprised if some first-time visitor said, "You can smoke pot in China!? I didn't know it was like Amsterdam!"

Um, no ... That's Chinglish for you. The sign actually means, "Smoking area."

Variants are smoking room (*xiyan shi*) and smoking section (*xiyan qu*).

I think I've figured out how the sign came to be: the last character – *dian* – can mean "point" or "spot," as in a geographical location. Either "point" lost two letters or "spot" lost one to give us "pot."





# Up! (2009)

## Movie of the week

This movie may be another cure after *Wall-E* for those who see life as a painful journey. That this storyline managed to be animated is more than enough reason to praise *Up!*. Ever since *Toy Story*, Pixar has consistently delivered the most radically original and unique ideas for animated films. Not all of them are amazing, but there is something brilliantly imaginative and exciting going on at that studio, and *Up!* is no exception.

What makes this movie work is its focus on multiple characters. Some may say the film is trying to tell multiple stories, but as it progresses, it becomes clear it is telling one story: the tale of a man who never experienced what he wanted the most. The film builds up the main characters' backgrounds in startling moments that were surprisingly kept secret in its marketing campaign.

## Synopsis

Carl Fredricksen is a 78-year-old balloon salesman. His entire life, Carl has longed to wander the wilds of South America. Then, one day, the irascible senior citizen shocks his neighbors by tying thousands of balloons to his home and taking flight. But Carl isn't alone on his once-in-a-lifetime journey, because stowed away on his front porch is an excitable eight-year-old wilderness explorer named Russell. Later, as the house touches down on the world's second largest continent, Carl and his unlikely companion step outside to discover that not only is their new front lawn considerably larger, but that the predators are much more ferocious than anything they faced back home.

## Scene 1

(Young Carl Fredricksen watches a newsreel about the famous explorer Charles Muntz.)

**Newsreel Announcer (NA):** Movietown News presents Spotlight on Adventure.

What you are now witnessing is footage never before seen by civilized humanity, a lost world in South America. Lurking in (1) the shadow of majestic Paradise Falls, it sports plants and animals undiscovered by science. Who would dare set foot on this inhospitable summit? Well, our subject today, Charles Muntz!

The beloved explorer lands his dirigible (2) the Spirit of Adventure in New Hampshire this week, completing a yearlong expedition to the lost world. This lighter-than-air craft was designed by Muntz himself and is longer than 22 prohibition paddywagons placed end to end. And here comes the adventurer now.

Never apart from his faithful dogs, Muntz conceived the craft for canine comfort. It's a veritable floating palace in the sky, complete with doggy bath and mechanical canine walker. And, Jiminy Cricket do the locals consider Muntz the bee's knees (3). And how!

**Charles Muntz (M):** Adventure is out there!

**NA:** But what has Muntz brought back this time?

**M:** Gentlemen, I give you the monster of Paradise Falls!

**NA:** And, golly, what a swell monster this is! But what's this? Scientists cry foul. The National Explorer's Society accuses Muntz of fabricating the skeleton. The organization strips Muntz of (4) his membership. Humiliated, Muntz vows a return to Paradise Falls and promises to capture the beast alive!

**M:** I promise to capture the beast alive, and I will not come back until I do!

**NA:** And so, the explorer's off to clear his name. Bon voyage, Charles Muntz.

## Scene 2

(Carl is now old and Ellie, his wife, has passed away. When he is forced into a nursing home, he opts instead to travel to Paradise Falls in his floating house.)

**Russell (R):** I've never been in a floating house before. Goggles. Look at this stuff. Wow! You're going on a trip? "Paradise Falls, a land lost in time." You're going to South America, Mr. Fredricksen?

**Carl Fredricksen (F):** Don't touch that! You'll soil (5) it.

**R:** You know, most people take a plane, but you're smart because you will have all your TV and clocks and stuff. Whoa. Is this how you steer your house? Does it really work?

**F:** Kid, would you stop with the ...

**R:** This makes it go right.

**F:** Let go of that ...

**R:** And that way's left.

**F:** Knock it off (6)!

**R:** Hey, look! Buildings. That building's so close I could almost touch it.

## Scene 3

(Carl finally reaches Paradise Falls and meets Muntz, who is still chasing the monster.)

**M:** Well, most of the collection is housed in the world's top museums, New York, Munich, London. Of course, I kept the best for myself.

**F:** Did you ever! Will you look at that?

**M:** Oh, yes, the *Arsinoitherium*. Beast charged while I was brushing my teeth. Used my shaving kit to bring him down. Only way to get it out of Ethiopia at the time was to have it declared as dental equipment.

**F:** Oh, my gosh! The giant *Somalian leopard tortoise*!

**M:** Oh, you recognize it. I'm impressed. That's an interesting story there. I found it on safari with Roosevelt. He and I fell into a habit of playing gin rummy (7) in the evenings, and did he cheat! Oh, he was horrible.



## Vocabulary

1. **lurk in:** to exist unobserved or unsuspected
2. **dirigible:** airship
3. **the bee's knees:** an outdated equivalent of the contemporary 'cool'
4. **strip of:** to take away
5. **soil:** to dirty
6. **knock it off:** stop
7. **gin rummy:** card game for two or more players won by matching or melding away hand

(By Wang Yu)